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Inter-Arab Affairs

Proceedings on Lebanon Continue in Al-Ta'if

Deputies Hold Meetings

NC1310132189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Meetings and consultations among Lebanese deputies continued on the sidelines in al-Ta'if today. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni met with a number of parliamentary blocs. Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah met with [former prime minister] Sa'ib Salam. Salam was cited as saying that he is sure that the deputies will reach an agreement within 2 days. He called on the deputies to respond positively to the Arab tripartite committee efforts and to translate their response into practical terms.

Also participating in the consultations were members of the tripartite ministerial committee and Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the Higher Arab Committee to Lebanon.

The consultations focused on overcoming the difficulties, obstacles, and impossible demands made by Sa'adah and the East Beirut deputies.

According to reports from al-Ta'if, the parliamentary drafting committee will meet this afternoon if the consultations succeed in surmounting the difficulties.

REUTER cites Muslim deputies as saying that the Christian deputies earlier agreed on the separation of the issues of reforms and withdrawal on the basis of an understanding that the tripartite Arab committee will exert efforts to secure Syrian withdrawal. REUTER also cites them as saying that they are still optimistic about the possibility that Christian deputies may go back on what they proposed yesterday evening and once more accept what they agreed upon in the morning. However, they expressed apprehension that these deputies may complicate the process when the parliamentary drafting committee reads the clause related to Syrian withdrawal outlined in the Arab committee document. [passage omitted]

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was quoted as saying that Saudi Arabia welcomes the deputies, but as an Arab committee we cannot wait any longer. He also said: We are three foreign ministers and have duties which we cannot ignore for more than 15 days. If it is a matter of demands and memorandums, all parties have more demands than those outlined in the draft document. He said: The Arab committee endorsed the document because it expresses the minimum of these demands. He added: We have heard about contacts held from here with this and that party and about statements and memorandums, although thorny problems must be resolved here. He said: We urge you to issue results quickly because we must convey them to our leaders today.

Agreement To Withdraw Demands

NC1310150189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1425 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Most of the Lebanese deputies meeting in al-Ta'if have agreed to withdraw the impractical [ta'jiziyah] demands so that they can reach agreement on the articles outlined in the document as a whole. This agreement has generated an atmosphere of guarded optimism. The parliamentary drafting committee was scheduled to begin its discussion of the articles in the draft reform document at 1700.

Deputies Try To Salvage Talks

NC1310150689 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, Oct 13 (AFP)—Lebanese members of parliament [MP] held informal meetings here Friday in an effort to salvage talks on political reforms to end the 15-year-old civil war in their country. The talks broke up late Thursday after Christian military leader General Michel 'Awn warned MP's not to "bargain" with their country's sovereignty, and vowed to pursue his struggle to drive the Syrian Army out of Lebanon.

Gen 'Awn heads one of two rival governments in Lebanon, but is not an MP, and is not taking part in the deliberations which began here on September 30 under the auspices of the Arab League. Sources close to Gen 'Awn told AFP that, despite what Beirut's Friday newspapers called his "verbal esclataion," he would not reverse his acceptance of a cease-fire, which took effect on September 26. He will not return to "the language of the gun, but the political battle will be ferocious," the sources said.

The ceasefire, halting six months of almost daily shelling between Christian forces on one side and Moslem and Syrian forces on the other, was part of a package proposed by a committee set up at the Arab League's summit in May. The committee, headed by the Algerian, Moroccan, and Saudi Arabian heads of state, invited the Lebanese parliament to meet in Saudi Arabia to discuss political reforms ending the traditional privileges of Lebanon's Maronite Christian community.

Several Christian MP's said Friday that they would refuse to vote on a document in plenary session here before receiving a satisfactory response from the Arab League's committee on the withdrawal from Lebanon of some 35,000 Syrian troops.

Christian deputy Georges Sa'adah abruptly left a meeting of a 17-man select committee drafting a document to recast Lebanon's political system on Thursday, protesting at what he called "unscheduled questions" and "last-minute attempts to up the stakes."

Two MP's told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the document, which weakens the executive power of the

Maronite Christian president, had been "unanimously accepted" by the select committee. Sources close to Gen 'Awn said he wanted to scotch rumors that MP's allied to him had already accepted an Arab League proposal that Syrian forces redeploy, rather than pull out, of Lebanon. But Mr Sa'adah and another Christian MP, Butrus Harb, later said the withdrawal issue had not yet been discussed.

In Damascus on Friday, the official Syrian daily TISHRIN said that anyone who believed that Syria would change its position was "banging his head against a rock."

Describing the Syrian military presence in Lebanon as "a factor for stability and calm," the paper said that "any withdrawal before a definitive political settlement would lead to unprecendented massacres."

Syrian officials and the Damascus press also said that Syrian policy had the "complete" support of the United States, because the Arab League plan for Lebanon "enjoyed unprecedented Arab and international support."

Drafting Committee Meets

LD1310215889 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] The drafting committee emanating from the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies—which is meeting in al-Ta'if—held a meeting this evening to settle the remaining disagreements over the Charter of National Reconciliation. Parliamentary sources have indicated that should the committee conclude its work tonight the legislature will hold a plenary session tomorrow, Saturday, to ratify the clauses relating to the reforms. With regard to the clause on the extension of sovereignty to the entire Lebanese territory, there is a view which calls for the coordination of the deputies' opinions around this issue so that they will be conveyed to the Arab tripartite committee and will be used as a basis for its new round of activity between the capitals and parties concerned and between the forces which play an active role at the Arab and international levels. Such a move would help reach a common denominator which would satisfy everyone.

Moreover, the Christian deputies met today to define an official and clear stand vis-a-vis the issue of the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. Well-informed sources say that this issue is still the source of disagreement between the Christian and Muslim deputies.

Morocco's Filali Departs

LD1410040489 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] His Excellency Dr Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left al-Ta'if yesterday [13 October] evening after having participated in the efforts of the ministerial council which emanated from the supreme tripartite committee, set up to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis, in the framework of the Lebanese House of Deputies' meetings currently held in al-Ta'if.

Debates, Meetings Detailed

NC1410090789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The parliamentary drafting committee is scheduled to convene in al-Ta'if at 1100 today. Meanwhile, parliamentary sources in the National Front have been quoted as saying that the front's deputies have not been notified about the reconciliatory formula reportedly agreed upon by East Beirut deputies and Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

Citing Lebanese Christian and Muslim deputies, AFP said the latest differences over reforming the Lebanese political system were settled in al-Ta'if last night and that Speaker Husayn al-Husayni was asked to draw up the final formula for the text of the settlement. A Christian deputy who is a member of the subcommittee has pointed out that the political reforms have been settled and agreed upon. However, he added, the agreement will not be announced officially until agreement is reached on Syrian withdrawal.

A pro-Syrian Muslim deputy has confirmed that a full and in-depth agreement has been reached and that the final text is being drawn up in Speaker al-Husayni's office.

REUTER quotes Christian deputies as saying they insist that the agreement will be worthless without guarantees on the withdrawal of the Syrian forces.

Phased Syrian Pullout Proposed

NC1410190281 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, Oct 14 (AFP)—Hardline Lebanese Christian MPs [members of parliament] Saturday proposed a three-year phased withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon in a bid to break a deadlock in parliamentary talks here, conference sources said.

The move came after Christian leader General Michel 'Awn, who launched a "war of liberation" against Syrian troops in March, warned the 62 deputies meeting here for the third week against compromising on Lebanon's sovereignty.

Christian and Muslim MPs agreed Friday on political reforms to give more power to the country's Muslim majority but refused to formally announce an accord until reaching a settlement on the Syrian withdrawal issue. The sources said hardline Christian MPs, who want written guarantees and a strict timetable for a pullout, proposed that Syrian forces first withdraw from Beirut, immediately after the formation of a national unity government.

The proposal calls for all 35,000 Syrian troops currently in Lebanon to be withdrawn from the country within three years, the sources said. The Syrian Army has been in Lebanon since it stopped factional clashes in 1976.

A plan drawn up by Arab League mediators Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Morocco and the basis of the debates here calls for a mere "redeployment" of Syrian troops two years after the implementation of political reforms.

Syria and Muslim MPs support the Arab redeployment plan. The sources said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faysal, who has led efforts to soften Christian demands, met separately Saturday with moderate Christian MPs.

In a message from Beirut, Gen 'Awn, a staunch opponent of the Arab proposal, urged MPs not to "accept anything that would amount to a concession on sovereignty, the rights of the people or the country's supreme interest."

"The people, who paid with their blood, will not spare those, however high-ranking they may be, who sell off the existence, future, and dignity of Lebanon," said the general in his second such statement since Thursday. He said the deputies should not give in to pressure for an early agreement from Arab states or the international community. The United States Friday renewed its support for the deputies' and Arab League efforts.

Parliamentary speaker Husayn al-Husayni, charged with "tidying up" a final text on political reforms, Saturday met several Muslim MPs who expressed reservations about the compromise accepted by both sides Friday.

Parliamentary sources said Druze MP Tawfiq 'Assaf and Zahir Khatib, a Sunni Muslim, had called for a 128-seat parliament—against 108 seats as agreed—to guarantee more delegates from the pro-Syrian militias they represent.

The reform plan aims to give Muslims a greater role in the confession-based political system which has existed in Lebanon since 1943, notably by reducing the power of the country's traditionally Christian president.

Despite lengthy debate, informed sources said the compromise text contains only minor changes from the proposals put forward by the Arab League committee, which organized the al-Ta'if talks after negotiating a cease-fire in Beirut. [passage omitted]

Deputies Discuss Syrian Pullout

NC1510195289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The Eastern area's six-member committee comprising deputies George Sa'adah, Butrus Harb, Nasri al-Ma'luf, 'Uthman al-Dana, Khatchik Babikian, and Pierre Dakkash, which was formed during a meeting of the Eastern area deputies this morning, has met with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal. During the meeting, the committee insisted that the Arab Committee provide definite and effective guarantees, coupled with practical steps, for the Syrian withdrawal.

REUTER has cited parliamentary sources as having said that the six-member committee gave Saudi Minister al-Faysal a memorandum containing the Eastern area deputies's views on the question of the Syrian forces withdrawal and seeking clarification about the length of time these forces would remain in al-Biqa'.

The sources said that these deputies proposed, among other things, that the Syrian forces withdrew from Beirut before the [presidential] elections are held as a goodwill gesture.

Citing parliamentary sources, REUTER said that the Arab committee has advised the Eastern area deputies not to introduce fundamental amendments to the clause in the Arab document related to the Syrian forces withdrawal. REUTER added that the committee has notified more than one parliamentary party that the document is supported by Arab and other states.

Sa'adah on Sovereignty Issue

NC1510160589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] As the parliamentary activities in al-Ta'if entered their 3d week yesterday, issues related to the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, the abolition of political sectarianism, and an increase in the number of deputies remain unresolved. Meanwhile, the deputies, particularly those from the eastern area, have been holding intensive consultations and meetings on the sidelines in order to resolve matters.

A meeting took place this morning attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Algerian and Moroccan ambassadors, Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, and the members of the new six-member committee which was formed at the meeting held by 15 eastern area deputies at Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah's quarters this morning. According to reports from al-Ta'if, the new committee comprises Deputies George Sa'adah, Butrus Harb, Nasri al-Ma'luf, 'Uthman al-Dana, Khatchik Babikian, and Pierre Dakkash.

After the 2-hour meeting, Dr Sa'adah made a statement in which he emphasized that the question of sovereignty is a sensitive, thorny, delicate, and complicated one and should not be given to the deputies to tackle. Rather, consultations must be held with the leaders in order to achieve a common position on this matter, he said.

In another press statement, Dr Sa'adah affirmed that not only are guarantees required but the Arab document's reference to Lebanon's sovereignty must also be studied. He described the situation as delicate and sensitive and said that it does not depend on agreement among the deputies in al-Ta'if. There should be another mechanism, he stated, because a large part of this issue is

connected with Syria. Dr Sa'adah noted that disagreement on any of the four clauses contained in the Arab document means the collapse of the entire document. He said that any agreement reached in al-Ta'if, even relating to constitutional reforms, cannot be regarded as final because we are not in al-Ta'if as a chamber of deputies but as parliamentarians holding meetings and consultations. Any agreements would be only plans that are open to amendment.

The new six-member parliamentary committee is scheduled to meet at 1700 today, according to reports from al-Ta'if. The committee will then meet with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

Speaker al-Husayni today met with Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi and several eastern area parliamentary bloc members and deputies.

AFP has reported that the hardline eastern area deputies are demanding a complete written timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces within a maximum period of 3 years following the formation of a national unity government. AFP added that the moderate deputies would be satisfied with an official pledge by the tripartite committee to work at resolving this matter.

REUTER has reported that an Arab businessman attended a meeting of the Christian deputies in al-Ta'if last night and told them that they would do well to leave the proposed timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon as it appeared in the Arab document, otherwise they would complicate all the efforts for the establishment of peace in Lebanon.

Al-Faysal Not To Allow Amendments

NC1510173789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] According to informed sources, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal has told the eastern area deputies that there will be no amendments to the withdrawal clause [in the Arab peace plan]. In the presence of the Algerian foreign minister, Al-Faysal informed Deputy George Sa'adah that amendments are possible only if they do not affect the essence of the clause and only if they take the form of clarifications and assurances.

Sa'adah asked about the guarantees which the tripartite Arab committee may give. Al-Faysal answered that it cannot give more than moral guarantees.

It was also reported that the Saudi foreign minister told Deputies Joseph Skaf and Nasri al-Ma'luf that every word in the sovereignty clause required visits to and contacts with most of the Arab capitals concerned, and hence no word in this clause can be amended.

Al-Faysal said: If you are waiting for an amendment, do not wait. The al-Ta'if meetings might be the last chance to arrive at a political solution.

Al-Faysal on Christian Memorandum

NC1710080689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Oct 8

[Excerpt] According to available reports, the al-Ta'if meetings are running out of time. Meanwhile, attention is focused on the meetings that the six-member committee of East Beirut deputies is holding at the Palace of Conferences, specifically the meetings with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal. The committee's discussions center on the still unresolved sovereignty issue. The six-member committee has proposed to Al-Faysal an alternative to the Arab document's plan for Syrian withdrawal. The committee will hold another meeting with Al-Faysal this morning. The meeting has already been described as decisive.

Parliamentary sources have reported that yesterday the committee presented to Sa'ud al-Faysal a formula to replace the Arab document's article dealing with the sovereignty issue. According to the sources, Al-Faysal described the formula as unpromotable and said it cannot pass because it constitutes an amendment of the essentials. However, the six-member committee said it regarded its memorandum as the minimum acceptable demand. The committee included a detailed explanation of causes and justifications with the memorandum, noting that every formal agreement between two countries contains a start and finish date and a fixed program. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Further on Central Council Meeting in Baghdad

Council Resumes Meetings 16 Oct

JN1610121089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—The PLO Central Council held its second meeting in Baghdad today. The meeting, which was attended by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, was chaired by Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih.

INA learned that it was agreed, during this meeting, on the need to escalate the intifadah and entrench the power of the people to confront the Zionist occupation forces and campaigns of savage repression and terrorism against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people.

The PLO Central Council is discussing a working paper presented by the PLO Executive Committee on ways to escalate the Palestinian intifadah inside the occupied territory and to firmly adhere to the PNC resolutions, the Palestinian peace initiative, and the Casablanca resolutions. The working paper also deals with issues related to the role of the international community in

protecting the Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied territory and to promoting the role of the Palestinian communities outside the homeland to support the intifadah in the political and information fields and to highlight the intifadah before world public opinion.

Further on Council Session

JN1610180489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The PLO Central Council resumed its meetings today in Baghdad and held a second session. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], presided over the session, which was attended by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

The Council's preliminary session yesterday reviewed the obstacles, difficulties, and aggressive practices imposed by the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

In the course of the discussion, members asserted the need to adhere to the Palestinian principles approved during the PNC session in Algiers. They also reaffirmed the rejection of proposals and plans that attempt to exclude the PLO, including the five-point proposal made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

For the 2d day, the PLO Central Council continued its discussion on the working paper presented by the PLO Executive Committee on means to escalate the Palestinian intifadah inside the occupied territory and on adherence to the Palestinian peace initiative and the Casablanca summit's resolutions. Other issues were discussed related to the international community's role in protecting the Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied territories and promoting the role of Palestinian communities outside the homeland in supporting the intifadah politically and in the information fields and in publicizing the intifadah before world public opinion.

An official Palestinian source in the PLO Central Council has stated to [an Iraqi] radio and television correspondent that the PLO Central Council hopes to conclude its meetings this evening by issuing a statement covering all the subjects discussed by the Council.

'Arafat Urges Rejection of Baker Plan

NC1610130789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has asked the PLO Central Council, which is currently meeting in Baghdad, to reject Secretary of State James Baker's plan to arrange a meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

A PLO spokesman in Baghdad stated that, speaking in the name of the Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat asked the Central Council to reject Baker's plan as well as any other proposals that conflict with what he called the PLO initiative. In a statement to AFP, the PLO spokesman added that the Executive Committee describes Baker's plan as a new attempt to contain the Palestinian initiative and to back up Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

The PLO spokesman also stated that all participants in the Central Council meetings in Baghdad have emphasized that the PLO is the sole party entitled to speak on behalf of the Palestinians or to select Palestinians to hold talks with Israel.

REUTER has quoted Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, as saying that the hardliners in the PLO will try to urge the conferees to reject Egyptian President Mubarak's plan.

The PLO spokesman noted that a final declaration might be issued either later tonight or early tomorrow morning.

Council Concludes Meetings

JN1610200989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The PLO Central Council concluded its 2-day meeting in Baghdad tonight.

The final session, which was attended by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, was chaired by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council.

The PLO Central Council issued a final statement which dealt with a number of issues included in the working paper submitted to the Council by the PLO Executive Committee on the unity and organizational action within the PLO's infrastructure.

Report on Council Meetings

JN1610210489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1826 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Brothers, the PLO Central Council is expected to conclude its second session tonight after it has completed the discussion of all items on the agenda during the last night's and this morning's sessions. Last night's session was characterized by accurate remarks on the political situation made by brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. He stressed that the Palestinian political action was and will continue to be based on the resolutions of the historic extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] held in Algiers—the session that unleashed the Palestinian peace initiative and pushed it forward along the road of struggle and dialogue, constituting a political parallel to the intifadah and its glorious action in the field. In his remarks, brother leader Abu-'Ammar stressed the need to deal in an accurate way with U.S. political maneuvers with a view to foiling them as long as they continue to be aimed

at obstructing the Palestinian initiative—indeed at torpedoing it—in favor of the schemes of the Israeli occupation forces. He stressed that Shamir's election plan is nothing but a U.S. scheme in the first place and an Israeli one in the second.

Throughout the discussions of its members, the PLO Central Council reflected deep understanding of the dimensions of the new U.S. political maneuver represented in James Baker's 5 points. It stressed that these points only reflect the extent of the U.S. Administration's bias toward the Israeli occupation and its liquidatory schemes. It also stressed that these five points will continue to be unacceptable to the Palestinian side since they provide nothing new in the biased U.S. stance toward the so-called Shamir election plan.

In last night's session, the PLO Central Council also heard a working paper presented by the PLO Executive Committee. In its introduction, the paper pointed out the continuation and growth of the popular uprising against the Zionist occupation and the deepening militant context and popular nature of the intifadah despite increasing Israeli oppression and use of new methods, including the war of starvation, collective confiscations, increasing orders to kill citizens, and all other forms of collective punishment. It also pointed out the large-scale mass defiance of the occupation plan and the growing popular solidarity in major battles such as the battle of the magnetic cards launched by the workers of the heroic Gaza Strip and the steadfast battle of struggling Bayt Sahur and Nabulus. The paper stressed the failure of all attempts to divide the Palestinian national ranks and create confusion, especially after the announcement of the so-called Shamir election plan and the national unanimity on rejecting this liquidatory plan.

The paper said: In its new form and confrontations of the occupation methods and its terrorist measures, the intifadah faced more complicated problems than before—problems that need deep discussion and practical solutions, which will be dealt with in the special report prepared by the intifadah higher committee.

The paper stressed that the impact of the intifadah, the Palestinian peace onslaught based on the resolutions of the PNC Algiers session, and the growth of worldwide support led the U.S. Administration to issue statements supporting an end to the occupation, a land-for-peace barter, and the need to abandon the idea of Greater Israel. This is despite the fact that the U.S. Administration continued to provide cover for the crimes of Israel's rulers and their policy of rejecting a just peace in all gatherings and forums, and the continuation of U.S. denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Casablanca summit resolutions were an important indication that the Arab summit adopted the Palestinian peace plan and the resolutions of the PNC, which need large-scale political and popular efforts to be implemented. Recognition of the independent state of Palestine increased, and up to 107 world nations, including states belonging to blocs and alliances led or directed by the United States, recognized this state. The paper explained that all these great achievements indicate that the Palestinian national victories are growing and increasing thanks to the continued intifadah and its firmness in the homeland, and thanks to the good policy of the PLO, which is based on the PNC resolutions in Algiers and the Palestinian peace initiative unleashed by brother President Yasir 'Arafat in his UN speech in Geneva.

Although the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has not achieved tangible political results, it did help explain the PLO's aims and policy to a large section of public opinion, including that in the United States. It stressed that the U.S. Administration has realistically and practically been forced to cooperate with the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole representative. This dialogue exposed the United States' support for the Israeli rulers' policy, increased its embarrassment, and tightened the cordon around it. The PLO conducted this dialogue by depending on the PLO's principled and national line. It rejected all ideas and proposals that undermine the unity of Palestinian representation and our people's sacred right to self-determination. It also put forward a number of concrete proposals to push the peace process toward an international conference and to expose the premeditated intentions to peddle liquidatory plans like Shamir's plan, or any other proposals that undermine our people's representation and rights.

The PLO Executive Committe's working paper stressed that all these developments have put before us today a host of basic positions and tasks, most prominent among which are:

--The firm adherence to the National Council resolutions and the Palestinian peace initiative.

—Rejection of all alternative plans and proposals, because the Palestinian peace initiative contains the principles that can achieve a just peace and is based on the legal international resolutions.

—Adherence to the Casablanca summit resolutions and seeking to activate the Arab role, while stressing the contents of these resolutions, particularly regarding the idea that elections should take place under international supervision and after Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories as part of a comprehensive peace process. All Arab states without exception should abide by these resolutions and not depart from them in their political statements and moves.

—The firm confrontation of the U.S. policy, which is still based on denying our people's right to self-determination and on supporting and covering the Israeli rulers' policy as expressed in U.S. Secretary of State Baker's recent proposals, which aim at imposing

trusteeship on Palestinian representation, denying our people's rights and the PLO's role, and adopting Shamir's plan as a basis for a solution.

Regarding the proposal calling for Palestinian-Israeli talks, the following are the principles capable of turning these talks into a step toward a just solution:

1. The PLO alone is entitled to form and name the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel.
2. The Palestinian position in these talks will be based on the Palestinian peace initiative, which depends on international legality.
3. The agenda of the meeting should be open and without preconditions.
4. This meeting should be considered as preliminary talks between the Palestinians and Israelis as a step toward holding the effective international conference, which constitutes the only suitable framework for negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement of the conflict according to UN resolutions and international legality.
5. This preliminary meeting will be attended by delegations from the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council, the UN secretary general, and representatives of the other concerned parties, including Egypt and Sweden.

Final Statement Detailed

JN1610212989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—The PLO Central Council concluded its 2-day meeting in Baghdad tonight.

The final session, which was attended by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, was chaired by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC].

The PLO Central Council issued a final statement which dealt with a number of issues included in the working paper that was submitted to the Council by the PLO Executive Committee on the unity and organizational action inside the PLO's frameworks.

In its statement, the PLO Central Council praised Iraq's victory under President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of the celebrations on rebuilding the city of al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of great victory.

The statement asserted the need to transform the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran into a permanent peace between the two countries that is based on the policy of neighborliness and in a manner that will preserves Iraq's full rights to sovereignty over its territories and waters.

The Council asserted its absolute adherence to the PNC's resolutions, the Palestinian peace initiative, and the Casablanca summit's resolutions. It referred to the need for serious action to promote the role played by Palestinian communities outside the homeland to support the intifadah in the political and information fields and to the means to activate world public opinion and the international organizations and parties to support the intifadah and expose the Zionist entity's measures and terrorist acts against the Palestinian people.

The statement urged the international community to take measures to provide protection to the Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied Arab territories against the Zionist campaigns of terror and oppression.

The statement confirmed the PLO's firm interest in the unity of Lebanon—people, territory, and institutions—and in extending Lebanese authority on the whole of the Lebanese soil without any foreign intervention.

The statement also confirmed support for the efforts made by the Arab tripartite committee to achieve that solution in a manner that will guarantee security and stability for Lebanon.

Khalid al-Hasan Interviewed on Peace Prospects

JN1510153989 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 13 Oct 89 p 20

[Interview with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Palestine National Council, by Rashid Khashshanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashshanah] A list of names of Palestinian figures expected to be members of the Palestinian delegation to future negotiations with Israel is being circulated. How true are the reports being circulated on this list?

[Al-Hasan] Everything that has been circulated is not true. We have neither formed a delegation nor named its members.

[Khashshanah] Do you expect the current initiatives to produce a formula acceptable to the PLO?

[Al-Hasan] First of all, there are no current initiatives.

[Khashshanah] What about the 10-point plan?

[Al-Hasan] The 10 points do not constitute an initiative. They are queries requiring answers. The Israeli Inner Cabinet has refused to discuss these queries. This is a tactic which the Arabs have not yet understood. It is a tactic designed to gain time. The Israelis are saying: We have not rejected the queries, we simply refuse to discuss them. In other words, they have left the door open for discussing these queries. Nevertheless, they refused to discuss them immediately in order to exploit the time factor. Since he submitted his elections initiative to the U.S. Administration, Shamir has been gaining time. He has so far gained 1 whole year, which has been a heavy burden on the shoulders of the Palestinian people, considering the intifadah and its requirements.

As for the United States, it seeks to develop the Israeli position through understanding. It does not use the language it uses with other parties, because Israel serves the strategic interests of the United States in the Middle East and in the Third World. I am referring here particularly to the dirty operations being carried out by Israel to serve U.S. policy. That is why the U.S. Administration espouses the Israeli position; and, because it is aware of its importance to U.S. interests, Israel plays hard to get, like the mistress who knows her place in the heart of her lover.

[Khashshanah] Can the Arab stand influence the U.S. position?

[Al-Hasan] The Arab stand no longer exists. It is no use saying that the Arab stand is disunited, fragmented, or tentative—it is now less than zero. As far as the Palestine question and the intifadah are concerned, there is no Arab stand. Nowadays, we notice that the current changes in the socialist bloc have begun to draw the attention of the West and the capitalist world more than any other issue, as these changes indicate upheavals on the international scene never dreamed of by the most optimistic people in the capitalist world. Hence, these developments are capturing the attention of the press and news media; and they have upstaged the intifadah. [passage omitted]

[Khashshanah] When the Palestinian initiative was launched in Algiers, the PLO orchestrated the game and was at the center of political moves in the Middle East. Now, however, we see that the reins have shifted to other Arab and non-Arab hands. How do you explain this change in roles?

[Al-Hasan] There are numerous initiatives which can be proposed to us. We must not forget that war has its ups and downs. This does not necessarily mean that these ups and downs occur only in military battles. The intellectual battle also has its ups and downs. We are currently engaged in a fierce intellectual battle. The Algiers resolutions were an event produced by us. Thus, the enemy began to move within the circle drawn by us.

We should have proposed the idea of elections ourselves, but we didn't. This time, the enemy proposed the initiative and created the situation. By dealing with the situation, we engaged the mind of the enemy. What is required of us is a new initiative whereby we create a new situation. This is the difference between those who plan ahead and those who deal with the resultant situation after failing. This latter type can never succeed in life, because the highest levels of victory for him are to render the situation created by the foe a failure. However, he does not win a victory for himself in reality, on the ground. When the enemy attacks, he confronts it and thwarts its attack. But thwarting an attack does not mean you have broken through the lines and occupied territory. That requires planning. As long as plans are lacking or weak and the concept of dealing with the given situation dominates peoples' minds, stemming from the idea that confronting a superpower can only be done by other superpowers, and that the Soviet Union is preoccupied with its internal affairs and therefore we are left with no allies. [sentence incomplete as published]

All this is empty talk. It does not stem from struggle or an attacking state of mind. When a revolution abandons the planning of events and waits for the event to be created by the enemy, it becomes defensive. There isn't a single revolution in the world which is defensive. Therefore, I personally pin great hopes on the next Central Council meeting, especially after the committee to study this question, which I proposed, was formed to submit its opinions to the Central Council to take the appropriate decisions.

[Khashshanah] We are on the threshold of the intifadah's 3d anniversary. Is there a new stage or turning point in its course?

[Al-Hasan] This is bound to happen because every event that becomes monotonous and routine dies, including marriage, not just revolutions. The wife who cannot prevent monotony from entering the home commits suicide and kills her husband and family. The revolutionary leadership which does not pay attention to the danger of monotony, kills itself.

[Khashshanah] Do you believe that Shamir's visit to the United States and to certain European capitals will only serve to keep the reins of initiatives in the hands of Israel?

[Al-Hasan] No, because Shamir is a liar. The whole of the Likud is based on the policy of lies. The Zionist movement was established in the first place on a philosophy of lies. Yesterday, I was reading an article by a Jewish writer in the HA'ARETZ newspaper in which he discussed the Likud passion for believing in lies. They create the lie and they are the first to believe it. One of the examples he cited was that they considered UN Resolution 242 a fatal prescription to Israel at the same time that they themselves considered this resolution a basis for settlement in the Camp David accords. How can this prescription be a cure in one place and yet fatal in another in the same cause, with the same medicine, and to cure one reality? Shamir is notorious for lacking credibility. He says whatever he wants openly because he is self-confident to the point of being conceited. However, what he says with such frankness about his goals is rejected internationally. Shamir does not know that all forms of colonization are out-dated. A new age of colonization now exists; that of huge multinational companies and technology, of which he can never be a part. Israel still represents the colonization of the 19th century.

Israel, therefore, is lagging behind the historical trend. If it does not realize this, it will find its horizons closed because the world is currently forming major economic blocks. Israel is an alien entity in the region, and can never be part of the region's groupings as long as it continues its known policy. Israel, therefore, is moving against the historical trend in economics and the world

economic order. The first risk it is going to face is the emergence of the united European market in 1993 [as published]. We should remember that not all colonies won their liberation by virtue of their own power; some of them won their liberation because the era of colonization had ended. Israel has not realized this fact, and, therefore, has not yet absorbed the historical dimension of contemporary history's movement. Its decisions, therefore, are always wrong, and so is its arrogance. It is true that Israel is a strong state and that its army is the strongest in the region, but that does not give it the right to be arrogant because this army is not its own creation and this power is not the product of its own resources. We are the sons of Palestine and we know Palestine's real resources; all this power is American. This reminds me of the well-known line of verse "if you honor the mean, he will revolt" and the wise saying: "Beware the weak if he suddenly becomes strong," because he will use this strength recklessly, and in a way that destroys him. It is true that it destroys people around him, but it also destroys him.

[Khashshanah] Do you expect the United States and the West in general to wager on the Labor Party under Rabin instead of Peres to play a new role?

[Al-Hasan] The West is currently ruled by socialist parties, and the Labor Party is a member of the Socialist International. It is therefore natural that all European countries ruled by socialist parties wish the Israeli Labor Party to return to power. Hence, we understand the power struggle between Peres and Rabin. The Labor Party lacks young leaders, while the Likud has a group of dynamic leaders—dynamic not in the positive sense of the word, but because extremism is easy to adopt. You, therefore, find a group of butchers such as Sharon, Arens, and David Levi in the Likud. All these are butchers who can easily be leaders in the use of violence and bloodshed; this is the easiest form of leadership. The most difficult form of leadership is to use thought and intelligence in the war to achieve the desired goal.

[Khashshanah] What matters did the latest meeting of Fatah Central Committee discuss?

[Al-Hasan] We appointed members of the Military Council who are represented in the movement's Revolutionary Council. We also discussed the amendements to the organization's bylaws, and we hope to approve this at the next meeting.

[Khashshanah] Will the membership of the Political Bureau be confined to the nine old members of the committee?

[Al-Hasan] That will be left to the democratic elections. But the number will not exceed 11 as stated in the organization's bylaws. It might be three, five, or seven. I only use odd numbers so that voting can be conclusive.

Intifadah Call No 47 Urges Passive Resistance

JN1610194489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1752 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Call No. 47 "the Bayt Sahur call," issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, on 15 October]

[Text] No voice rises above the voice of the intifadah, no voice rises above the voice of Palestine's people. O masses of our great people, O masses of the brave intifadah, who through your steadfastness and revolutionary creativity, have recorded a great historic event in the revolutionary struggle of our people and of every nation in the world. While proceeding for the sake of national freedom and independence, your glorious intifadah is determined to overcome all the difficulties that are caused by the growing fascist Zionist repression and Israeli-American intransigence, which is aimed at peddling Shamir's projects through the ill-famed Camp David.

In their determination, our people rely on the justice of their goals and on their heroic steadfastness during the long months of the intifadah. This determination was demonstrated by your courage during the week of wrath called for by your Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] in its special call. You continue your steadfastness in the face of the fascist occupation authorities and their intensive measures. The masses of our people have also registered an epic of steadfastness and confrontation in determined Bayt Sahur, in heroic Nabulus and Janin, and in staunch Rafah. All the cities, villages, and camps of our Palestinian state have displayed firm adherence to our people's resolute slogans and goals.

O sons of our great people, while you are holding the weapon of the intifadah with one hand, you extend, as usual, the other hand to just and comprehensive peace, as you have since your ordeal began. But your Zionist Israeli enemy fears that peace because the enemy is immersed in tyranny and injustice and always yearns for war and aggression because through war and aggression, it feeds its exapnsionist and colonialist nature. Israel's intransigence is new proof that the enemy has slammed the door in the face of negotiations with the Palestinian people through the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The stalemate reached by the terrorist Shamir's plan as a result of our people's rejection of it opens new horizons and creates new chances for the Palestinian peace initiative, which provides security guarantees, comprehensive peace, and stability for all sides that can be achieved through an effective international peace conference.

We must say that while we do not want to abrogate the role of any Arab party in promoting the peace process, we stress that any invividual or collective Arab political move should be based on the resolutions of the Casablanaca summit, which approved the Palestinian peace initiative and turned it into an Arab initiative. Within

this framework, all the Arab countries are required to support the intifadah and the Palestinian or Arab peace initiative. We also urge these Arab governments to stop pursuing and arresting Palestinian strugglers and to release the detainees.

Masses of the glorious intifadah, the UNLI urges you to be very cautious about the Israeli media reports which say that a Palestinian negotiating delegation has been named and that official Palestinian talks have taken place with the remnants of the Village Leagues. We affirm to you that this is only an evil attempt by the Nazi occupation authorities to stir confusion amid your ranks and influence your convictions and established national stands. The PLO, your sole legitimate representative, is the only side authorized to name its delegation to the negotiations and it disavows the symbols of the agent Village Leagues.

The UNLI emphasizes to the masses of our people the critical nature of the current political phase and the enemies' attempts to pass numerous positions to divide the ranks. However, it is confident about our people's ability to foil their attempts and to adhere together and unite more than ever before to defend the sacrifices and pains of our people.

O masses of our revolutionary people, authorities of the tax robbery are still waging against you the campaigns of tyranny and organized piracy, thus violating international law and human values and norms. But in spite of this, you continue to reinforce your belief through disobedience and by continuing your blazing volcano. Greetings to all those who refuse to pay taxes to those who rob the food from our children. Greetings to all the positions standing fast against the injustice of the detested tax campaigns. Greetings to Bayt Sahur in its legendary disobedience.

While praising the heroic escalation made by our valiant masses to protest the occupation's fascist policies and its oppressive bloody measures, the UNLI asks our masses to deepen and consolidate the boycott on paying taxes to those who suck our people's blood.

While praising the consuls of the European states for the interest and response they showed regarding the issue of the taxes and the accompanying oppressive measures, the UNLI urges them to shoulder their responsibilities and to forge an effective role to provide the necessary protection for Palestinian citizens and confront the Israeli arrogance.

O our revolutionary masses in the heroic Gaza Strip, greetings to you as you continue your fierce war against the magnetic cards in spite of the hunger and pain you suffer because of that. We affirm to you that you will not be alone in the field. And, you will certainly find at your side all sons of your people so that we will all share the bread available to us. We will continue with you in your general battle in spite of the rumors and the attempts which aim to stop that battle.

The UNLI calls on the Arab chambers of commerce to play their role in supporting merchants in the occupied areas, particularly Bayt Sahur, in its confrontation of the tax campaign. It also calls on Arab capitals to act in solidarity with the Palestinian cities, to continue to form mobile and fixed committees of merchants, activate them, and organize the various forms of protest; and call on the strike teams to confront the income tax men and departments and inflict the heaviest blows to them.

A previous call referred to suspicions about lawyer Musa 'Alqam. After the UNLI had investigated this matter and after he had relinquished and dissolved the committee he formed in parallel with the Arab lawyers committee, these suspicions were removed.

The UNLI calls on all masses of our people to abide by the following program of struggle:

1. 15, 16, 17, and 18 October will be days of general escalation on which demonstrations will be staged in all areas in solidarity with the detainees and the besieged areas, and the world is invited on these days to protest the escalation of the Zionist repression.
2. 19 October will be a day of militant solidarity with the workers of the heroic Gaza Strip when sit-in strikes, marches, and protest campaigns will be organized in solidarity with our steadfast Strip.
3. 20 October will be a day of protest against the tax repression campaigns in all areas and in solidarity with the victims. On this day, the brave merchants shall refrain from selling goods for 15 minutes, from 1000 to 1015, and shall stand in front of their shops during this time.
4. 21 October will be a day of a general strike to protest Shamir's plan and to confirm support for the Palestinian peace program.
5. 23, 24, and 25 October will be days of militant escalation of confrontation of the thievish tax authorities.
6. On 28 October, the anniversary marking the Kafr Qasim massacre, we shall observe 2 minutes of mourning from 1000. Stoppage of activity will be comprehensive in all places and in transportation.
7. 29 October will be a day of general strike to protest the increasingly systematic repression by the fascist occupation authorities.
8. 2 November will be a day of wrath and extensive mass rejection of the imperialist plotting against our people's cause on the occasion of the disreputable Balfour Declaration.
9. 4, 5, and 6 November will be days of solidarity with the families of martyrs, detainees, and victims among our valiant people.
10. 7 and 8 November will be days marked by the continuation of the boycott of Israeli goods in all areas.
11. 9 November will be a day of general strike on the occasion of the beginning of the 24th month of the intifadah.

Note: Nabulus will be exempted from the days of general strike cited in this call.

[Signed] The PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, the State of Palestine, 15 October 1989

Egypt

Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Hold Talks in Marsa Matruh

More on Al-Qadhdhafi's Arrival

LD1610123389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Marsa Matruh, 16 Al-Tumur [October], JANA—The brother leader of the revolution this morning crossed the imaginary borders separating the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt on his way to the district of Marsa Matruh.

The brother leader of the revolution arrived this morning at 1000 Jamahiriyah time in the district of Marsa Matruh by the road linking the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt. The brother leader of the revolution was given an official welcoming ceremony at Marsa Matruh airport where President Muhammad Husni Mubarak led his welcomers. Brothers 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information, Zaki Badr, interior minister, Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director at the President's Office for Political Affairs, senior army officers, and officials in the [Marsa Matruh] district, took part in the ceremony.

On his arrival at Marsa Matruh airport, the brother leader of the revolution was embraced by President Muhammad Mubarak with the warmth of the Arab brotherhood. [passage omitted]

The brother leader of the revolution is accompanied by the brother secretaries of the General People's Committees for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, Marine Wealth, and Light Industries.

'Closed Meeting' on 16 Oct

LD1610112689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1105 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 Oct (JANA)—A closed meeting took place this morning in Marsa Matruh between the brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

'Official Talks' Commence

NC1610122989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 Oct (MENA)—Official talks between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, began at noon today at the Irrigation Department rest house in Marsa Matruh.

MENA has learned that the Palestinian issue and the Lebanese crisis will top the agenda of the talks between the two leaders. Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi will also discuss ways to bolster cooperation between their two countries in all fields and they will touch on current African issues and the situation in the Gulf region.

Working Luncheon Hosted

NC1610145189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, resumed their talks this afternoon at a working luncheon which President Mubarak gave in honor of Col al-Qadhdhafi and the delegation accompanying him.

News Conference Held

NC1610154589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1426 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, held a news conference today. This followed their talks in the irrigation department resthouse in the city of Marsa Matruh, which lasted 2 and ½ hours.

Members of the press delegation accompanying Col al-Qadhdhafi, Egyptian journalists, and representatives of Arab news agencies and newspapers attended the news conference.

President Mubarak began by welcoming Libyan President [title as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Marsa Matruh, saying that strong ties bind Egypt and Libya and that the two peoples have been linked by kinship over the years. Mubarak said: Col al-Qadhdhafi has not visited Marsa Matruh in the last 14 years. I welcome him to his country today and I hope that Egyptian-Libyan relations will make progress in every way as a basis for fraternal ties of common destiny.

For his part, Col al-Qadhdhafi expressed his pleasure at being in Marsa Matruh, saying: This is an Arab and Egyptian city, in terms of both population and land. Therefore, I am not a guest, rather I am among my family, brothers, and kinfolk. He noted: What adds to the significance of this day is my meeting with my brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that his visit has indeed taken place after a long absence from Egypt, a country dear to us all. This is a good omen, which opens the way to unity, progress, and strength for our nation, and boosts the resolve of our nation in facing foreign challenges, he declared. This also, he added, enhances the nation's aspirations for the future, its aspirations to live as a free nation under the sun and to contribute to the world's civilization and future development.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that the enemies do not want the Arab nation to play this cultural and human role. He added that the enemies want to live at the expense of the Arab nation's division, weakness, and inferior conditions.

He pointed out that the Arab nation is confronted by two desires: its own desire to achieve liberation and progress and a hostile desire to prevent this. He said the world must listen to the voice of the Arabs, the voice of peace and unity. He noted that the Arabs are not attacking anyone, but at the same time they will not allow any enemy or intruder to attack them.

He continued: Our ideas have ripened through our experiences and we have not fallen into the enemy's trap of "divide and rule."

In conclusion, Al-Qadhdhafi once again voiced his pleasure at being in Marsa Matruh and addressed his thanks to President Husni Mubarak in particular for the brotherly reception he was accorded. He also thanked the Marsa Matruh citizens for the warm reception they gave him. He asserted: From now on we will be united and will meet continuously on the road of struggle.

Talks To Resume in Libya 17 Oct

NC1610161989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that he will pay a visit to Libya tomorrow, Tuesday, to resume his talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in Tobruk. The talks between the two leaders began in Marsa Matruh today.

President Mubarak has said that his talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in Marsa Matruh today were characterized by reason and logic. He stated that they were aimed at bolstering relations between Egypt and Libya in various fields. He asserted that there are various opportunities for cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic and trade fields.

In statements to journalists in Marsa Matruh today, President Mubarak described Egyptian-Libyan relations as good. He declared that understanding and cooperation prevailed in the talks between the two countries, noting that these talks will be resumed in Tobruq, Libya, tomorrow, Tuesday.

Regarding the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Libya, the president said this issue was not discussed today. He noted that, as it is, Libya does not establish embassies abroad, but people's bureaus.

President Mubarak said that he and Col al-Qadhdhafi discussed various issues of interest to Egypt and Libya, Arab issues in general, and joint cooperation between the two countries.

He explained that the talks with Al-Qadhdhafi, which lasted about 3 hours, were constructive. He said: There was an estrangement between the two countries for a long time. Now there is mutual understanding about the restoration of normal relations. President Mubarak asserted that Col al-Qadhdhafi is convinced that Arab solidarity must take priority over any disagreement.

Referring to the Arab position on international economic blocs, President Mubarak said it is necessary to think how to face such blocs—for example, the United States, Canada, the EEC—or else the Arabs will be the losers.

Al-Qadhdhafi Praises Talks

LD1610190389 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] After his meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Marsa Matruh this morning, the brother leader made a statement to the correspondents of Arab news agencies and radios in the beginning of which he expressed his pleasure to be among his family and friends.

The leader pointed out: We say this territory is Libyan or Egyptian, but it is in fact one Arab territory with its inhabitants and soil. Therefore, I am not a guest in this place, but I am among my family, relatives, and brothers. What made today more important is my meeting with my brother, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, after a long absence from Marsa Matruh, as the brother president has mentioned.

As for Egypt, he said: The circumstances are improving, and matters are becoming clearer to an extent which allows us to meet on the territory of dear Egypt. This is a promising issue and opens the road to the future and consolidates the aspirations of the nation for unity, for collecting its dispersed people, for raising its standing and power, and for directing its energies toward facing up to the foreign challenges that are hostile to our future aspirations of living free, prosperous, and united; of living in peace and security, and of participating in constructing civilization and the future of the world.

The leader stressed that the enemy does not like this nation to play such a civilized, humanitarian role because the enemy would like us to live in division, in weakness, and in deteriorating circumstances.

The leader also pointed out in his statement: We have to choose between two wishes: the wish of this nation to be free, to progress, to be united, and to live free on its land and direct its life as it wishes, and the hostile tendencies that oppose this attitude. In fact we are in a battle. But the world must listen to our voice, which is the voice of peace, freedom, liberation, and unity.

The leader said: We do not like to cross the sea to attack another country, but we do not accept an enemy on our territory, from the ocean to the gulf. We do not accept any foreign enemy. We do not accept any foreign hegemony in our homeland. These are our clear demands. We

are proceeding along this path. Our ideas have matured and we will not fall into the enemy's trap [words indistinct]. This was an experience, and we learned from it.

The brother leader added: Now we should build the future and move toward the future. The countries of the world should understand the aspirations of this nation.

The brother leader of the revolution concluded his statement to the correspondents of the Arab and foreign news agencies and radios by expressing his happiness with the great popular reception with which he was met by the Arab people in Egypt in Marsa Matruh and with his meeting with President Husni Mubarak. He stressed that the meetings and contacts will continue along the road of the continuous struggle of the Arab nation.

Al-Qadhdhafi Departs for Home

NC1610162889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 Oct (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, left Marsa Matruh for home this afternoon at the end of a brief visit lasting approximately 6 hours.

During this visit, Col al-Qadhdhafi held important talks with President Husni Mubarak aimed at consolidating, developing, and expanding prospects for cooperation between Egypt and Libya in all fields.

Col al-Qadhdhafi was accorded an official farewell ceremony at the Marsa Matruh base. The presidential band played the Libyan and Egyptian national anthems, after which Col al-Qadhdhafi shook hands with senior members of the party there to see him off, foremost among whom was President Mubarak. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Interior Minister Zaki Badr; Lieutenant General Kamal Mansur, governor of Marsa Matruh; senior officials of the governorate; military leaders of the air base; and heads of Matruh tribes were also present at the farewell ceremony.

Afterward, the two leaders reviewed the guard of honor, then President Mubarak accompanied his guest to the steps of the aircraft, where the two leaders embraced each other before Al-Qadhdhafi boarded the plane.

President Mubarak wished the Libyan revolution leader a safe journey home.

It is noteworthy that on his return journey to Tobruq, Al-Qadhdhafi used President Mubarak's special plane.

'Massive Farewell' Held

LD1710093689 Tripoli JANA in English 0804 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, Al-Tumur 17 [October] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution was given a massive farewell ceremony at Marsa Matruh yesterday headed by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Taking part in the farewell ceremony were 'Atif Sidqi, the Egyptian prime minister; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, the deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; General Zaki Badr, the minister of the interior; Muhammad al-Sharif, the minister of information; the governor of the district of Marsa Matruh as well as senior military commander and officials in the district.

After the national anthems of the two countries were performed, the leader of the revolution, in the company of president Muhammad Husni Mubarak, inspected the Guard of Honour who stood in salute. Then the leader of the revolution shook hands with the members of the party seeing him off and near the aircraft the leader of the revolution embraced in a warmly Arab way his brother President Husni Mubarak.

The Egyptian popular masses stood on both sides of the road to Marsa Matruh airport to greet the leader of the revolution waving banners which reassert the inevitability of total Arab unity from the ocean to the gulf.

Mubarak Departs for Continued Talks in Tobruq

NC1710090489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0822 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 17 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation this morning left Marsa Matruh for the Libyan town of Tobruq, 260 km inside Libyan territory, for a visit of a few hours.

During the visit, which is taking place upon the invitation of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the two leaders will continue examining those issues they began discussing yesterday in Marsa Matruh.

PLO Team Said Not To Discuss 'New Proposals'

NC1310123889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1127 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, said that the Palestinian delegation that arrived in Cairo early this morning, which includes PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, will conduct with the Egyptian officials an overall assessment of the political moves that have been undertaken so far before embarking on a discussion of any new proposals.

In a statement to MENA, the Palestinian official said the assessment will basically proceed from a joint Egyptian-Palestinian understanding regarding the settlement, the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and the grave responsibility borne by the Israeli Government. Kamal noted that before considering any new proposals, it must be understood that these proposals must not come at the expense of the principles declared by the Palestinian leadership for any dialogue or talks governing the Palestinian or Arab march toward peace.

'Abbas and 'Abd-Rabbuh are scheduled to meet tomorrow with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs.

'Abd-al-Majid Testifies in Revolution Case

NC1110220489 Cairo MENA in English 2124 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 11 (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Court resumed today its session to try the Egypt revolution organization defendants.

The court heard the testimony of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister, as a witness for the defence [as received] in the case. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Egypt was keen on finding a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian cause, pointing out that Egypt was currently seeking to resolve the issue through peace negotiations and with the consensus of Palestinians, Arab countries, and all world states. Acts perpetrated by the defendants were likely to jeopardize relations between Egypt and both the USA and Israel, he said.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid further underlined that Egypt condemned Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Egypt is presently endeavoring to hold an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo to find a just settlement of the Palestinian issue in accordance with the approval of the Palestinians themselves and the various Arab states, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said. He also stressed that acts of violence and the committing of crimes did not at all help strengthen the resistance stance on negotiation processes as negotiations were carried out through peaceful talks. International agreements confirm that the host state should maintain the security of other states' subjects, foremost among whom are the diplomats, he said. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry learned about the details of these crimes through official correspondence which the ministry received from Egyptian security organs, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said.

The court decided to postpone considering the case till October 25 and also decided to subpoena Major General Zaki Badr, Dr Midhat 'Abd-al-Fadil, and retired Major General Jamal Sa'id to appear before the court for testifying.

Butrus Ghali Returns From European, U.S. Tour

NC1310205589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1948 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Geneva tonight at the conclusion of a tour which took him to Paris, New York, Washington, and Geneva.

Following his arrival, Dr Ghali said that he will submit a full report to President Husni Mubarak on his talks in the four cities.

Dr Ghali said that he held talks in Paris with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and senior French officials concerning the initiative put forward by President Mubarak on 14 July in which the president called for a North-South dialogue to tackle the problem of Third World debt.

Dr Ghali noted that the talks also dealt with African issues in view of President Mubarak's chairmanship of the OAU. President Mubarak, Ghali said, is working to resolve African problems and conflicts, such as that between Senegal and Mauritania. Ghali pointed to the need to end the racist regime in South Africa and to tackle the problems of African debt as two of President Mubarak's concerns.

Dr Ghali said that he held talks with officials in Washington on African issues. He also met with the members of the committee tackling the dispute between Senegal and Mauritania. The committee is made up of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Togo, Tunisia, and Niger.

Dr Ghali added that he led Egypt's delegation to the meeting of the Arab-African cooperation committee. The committee met in Washington to discuss ways of bolstering Arab-African cooperation.

Ghali concluded by noting that he had held important talks in Geneva, including those at the UN Conference on Trade and Development which focused on Africa's foreign debt.

Saudi Air Defense Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC1310194889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1859 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—A military delegation from the Saudi Royal Air Defense Forces led by Major General Eng Majid Ibn-Tilhad al-'Utaybi, air defense force deputy commander, arrived in Cairo tonight on an official 5-day visit. Major General Faruq al-Shuwayhi from the Egyptian Air Defense Forces met the Saudi delegation at the airport.

Government Studying 'Failure' of IMF Talks

JN1310113189 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Oct 89 pp 1, 6

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] The government is studying the reasons behind the failure of the talks an Egyptian ministerial delegation held recently in Washington with officials from the IMF, the World Bank, and the U.S. Government.

Informed sources have asserted that IMF management informed Egypt that it rejects the economic reform plan and the letter of intent that Egypt recently presented to the IMF.

The sources pointed out that the IMF saw the need to standardize the exchange rate of hard currencies and favored the cancellation of the Central Bank's exchange rate used when calculating bread subsidies.

The sources stressed that IMF management rejected the figures included in the Egyptian reports on the subsidies and the budget deficit, and asserted that the budget deficit rose to approximately 10 billion [Egyptian] pounds in the current budget due to the international price increase of the products and goods Egypt imports. The Egyptian reports said the budget deficit had dropped to only 7 billion pounds.

The IMF accused the Egyptian Government of sluggishness in implementing the economic reform and of lack of seriousness in moving from materials subsidies for bread to cash subsidies. The IMF stated that it does not object to subsidizing bread for the poor, but objected to the method of delivering the subsidy.

The IMF criticized the weakness of the measures adopted by the government to regulate administrative expenditures and leisure spending. The IMF asserted that these measures saved less than 100 million pounds and that the government could increase this to more than 300 million pounds a year.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi will hold a meeting today with ministers of the economic group and several advisers to discuss details of the letter of intent and the new economic plan which Egypt will present to IMF management during future talks.

Gaza Figure Urges Continued Dialogue With U.S.

NC1110161089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, head of the Gaza Lawyers Association and a prominent figure in the occupied territories, has praised the efforts being made by President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government to support Palestinian rights.

In an interview with the Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on 13 October, Abu-Rahmah views the Egyptian 10 points as an attempt to take the first step toward a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. This step, he added, would be followed by others that might be developed later. [passage omitted]

Abu-Rahmah pointed out that the Israeli Inner Cabinet's decision on the 10 points proves that the Israeli Likud has no intention of pursuing peace. He noted that it was the lack of U.S. pressure which had helped create this atmosphere and had encouraged Israel to reject the proposed peace initiatives. [passage omitted]

Abu-Rahmah added that the opportunity still exists through the so-called Baker proposal to hold tripartite talks among the United States, Egypt, and Israel on the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and the Palestinian delegation to such a dialogue . He remarked that if an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is launched, this will be the first time that a Palestinian delegation sits down with an Israeli one. Though such a dialogue may or may not produce results, everyone should make efforts to help it succeed and produce concrete results, he said.

In the interview, Abu-Rahmah emphasized that it would be a fatal mistake to stop the dialogue with the United States. He went on to say that America is a superpower which has influence in the region and that no peace can be established in the area without American pressure on Israel. This can only happen when there is equal Arab and international pressure on the United States, he asserted. He noted that maintaining the channels of communication with the United States will be to the Palestinians' advantage in the long run. He stated that the United States is capable of exerting pressure on Israel. However, he added, no one is exerting pressure on the United States to force Israel in the direction of peace.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's forthcoming visit to the United States, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah said: I do not expect the United States to put pressure on Shamir; the opposite is more likely. He continued: I do not expect early elections in Israel, despite the dispute between the Likud and the Labor Party, because they are aware that they will get exactly the same results as those we see today.

The Lawyers Association head asserted that Israel is good at war, but not good at peace, and that it forgets that peace will be in its interest as well as in the Palestinians' interest. Morevoer, he said, he does not expect an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in the near future. [passage omitted]

Free Elections Said Impossible Under Occupation

JN1210193689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Oct 89 p 16

["A Thought" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] I do not believe it is possible to hold free elections in Lebanon as long as even one soldier of occupation remains. It is inconceivable that a voter can cast his vote

in an area occupied by the Israeli Army or controlled by the Syrian Army or any of the armed militias.

Elections held in a jungle of machineguns do not echo the voice of the people, but the sound of gunfire.

An area controlled by Hizballah will not elect the man wanted by Lebanon, but the man selected by Tehran. The al-Shuf area will not elect a Lebanese candidate, but a Syrian candidate.

I would like to see the election of a Lebanese president postponed until every Israeli, Iranian, and Syrian soldier has left Lebanon, and until the political militias are disarmed. No elections can be held under terrorism. A Lebanese candidate may nominate himself and be elected unanimously, angering a gang which may send its members to assassinate this candidate elected by the Lebanese. In this way, the elections may turn into a new civil war—as long as weapons have not been withdrawn from every Lebanese and are confined to the Lebanese Army itself.

The president needed by Lebanon is a strong man—not a scarecrow which frightens some birds, but not eagles; a man capable of unifying Lebanon and its ranks, one who rejects sectarianism and fanatacism, and one who takes his orders from the Lebanese people, not from abroad. Such a man cannot be elected in the presence of tanks, machineguns, and sticks of dynamite. Such a man can only be elected in an atmosphere of freedom, democracy, and human rights.

The foreign tanks will not permit free elections in Lebanon or anywhere else. Even if elections take place in the presence of local tanks, only guns will be able to vote.

Nasirite Defendants' Reexamination Planned

JN1110173189 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Oct 89 p 1, 2

[By Majdi Hilmi]

[Excerpts] The military governor has refused to endorse the court's decision to acquit defendants in the cases of the armed Nasirite Organization and the railway workers strike. It has been decided to reexamine the defendants in the Nasirite Organization case, which includes 15 defendants, before the fourth chamber of the Emergency Supreme State Security Court under counsellor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi. The case will be reopened as of next Saturday. The first chamber in the same court previously acquitted 14 fugitive defendants in the Nasirite Organization case and sentenced one defendant to 5 years in prison. [passage omitted]

The State Prosecution Office charged the defendants, among other things, of planning to carry out terrorist acts against U.S. and Israeli interests in Cairo and possessing weapons, explosives, and leaflets. [passage omitted]

Trade Balance Shows Increase Favors Israel

JN1310074989 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Oct 89 p 1

[BY 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn]

[Text] The balance of trade between Egypt and Israel has shown a $3 million increase in favor of Israel. Volume of Israeli exports to Egypt reached $6 million, while the Egyptian exports to Israel—excluding oil—reached $3 million.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the competent authorities warned in their reports of the continued growth in the volume of trade with, and in favor of, Israel. They described this as a blow to the future of economic cooperation with the Arab states.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Leaves Egypt Without Agreement

NC1610191689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi left the Egyptian town of Marsa Matruh today without agreeing with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the resumption of relations between Cairo and Tripoli. However, he expressed optimism about the results of his 3-hour discussions with Mubarak, saying that they open the road to unity for the Arab nation.

After the meeting, Al-Qadhdhafi announced his renunciation of his claim to the Western Desert in Egypt, which he used to regard as Libyan territory. The Libyan colonel said that his presence in Egypt for the first time in 16 years is a good omen and opens the road to unity for the Arab nation and to the strengthening of its forces in confronting foreign challenges.

Returns to 'Abd al-Nasir Base

LD1610190789 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution arrived at Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir base this evening from Marsa Matruh after holding talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The brother leader was received by the masses of the basic people's congresses of the municipality. They saluted the Great Al-Fatih Revolution which is the hope of the Arab nation for unity and freedom.

JANA has learned that another meeting will be held between the brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tomorrow in Tubruq.

Mubarak in Tubruq; Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

NC1710105189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1036 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tubruq, 17 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation have arrived at the Jamal Abd-al-Nasir Air Base in the Libyan city of Tubruq.

President Mubarak's aircraft landed in Cairo [as received] at 1000 Libyan time, 1100 Cairo time. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, led those who received President Mubarak and his accompanying delegation. Among the well wishers were ministers, senior officials, and popular and executive leaders of the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Kidnapping of Red Cross Employees Condemned

LD1610154589 Tripoli JANA in English 1452 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An official source at the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau and International Cooperation condemned the kidnapping of Mr Emmanuel Christin and Elio Erriquez, who work for the International Red Cross and were kidnapped recently in Lebanon.

The source said that this act will not serve any cause or humanitarian purpose and deserves to be deplored and condemned.

The source reaffirmed Jamahiriyah's stances and its condemnation of all forms of terrorism including the hijacking of aircraft, kidnapping individuals, attacking the life of innocents and other acts against the defenceless civilians.

The source pointed out that the leader of the revolution called on several occasions for the release of the hostages kidnapped in Lebanon.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Domestic Issues, Regional Ties

PM1610132689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Oct 89 pp 4-5

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the Sudanese Revolution for National Salvation, by 'Uthman al-'Umayr in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Bashir] Let me first explain one established fact: We have not come to rule. We have come—and this was the case from the very beginning—to change the formula and to extricate Sudan from the vicious circle of a democratic situation which fails and is followed by a people's rising, then by democratic rule, then military rule, then a people's rising followed by military rule, and so on.

We want to create the right atmosphere so the people can make their own decisions. The former democratic regime was a proved failure and any attempt to bring it back in its old form would produce the same result. We must look for new suitable formulas whereby the people can be their own rulers and gradually resolve their problems, which are initially limited but in time become major. Under the final formula, they should be able to form their own parliament and elect the right members freely.

We believe that there must be some controls, and the direct relationship between the ruling authority and the judiciary and the Armed Forces must be crystal clear.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you have in mind any particular experiment that could suit Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] Yes, what we have in mind is the Turkish experiment, whereby the Armed Forces are entitled to intervene when clear mistakes are committed or when the security situation deteriorates, because they have the power to restore normal conditions and to protect the constitution.

[Al-'Umayr] But the Turkish experiment allowed many parties to operate and could not eliminate what was happening at the grass roots level.

[Al-Bashir] We have the Turkish experiment in mind because the Armed Forces are entitled to intervene when the Constitution is in danger or when the situation in the country deteriorates. Regarding parties, we have not arrived at a final conclusion on this matter. The parties experiment in Sudan has failed and was based on sectarianism. That is still vivid in people's minds. In this connection we have promulgated the basic people's committees law. Apart from the services they render, the purpose of these committees is to be the basis for party formation in a manner contrary to past practice. We expect these committees to be the sound beginning of the exercise of partisan democracy.

[Al-'Umayr] On what basis will the people's committees be launched? I have the impression, Your Excellency, that you are carrying out a process of revision?

[Al-Bashir] There are no fixed principles. The people's committees will be a gradual process. In the early stages and at the basic levels, elections will be held for people in local areas. This way the people will get to know each other and to know who would be suitable to participate in government. Then we will move on to bigger councils at regional levels.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Excellency, when you talk about the democratic experiment I notice that there is a prior decision rejecting parties but at the same time you want to give the people the opportunity to express their views

as to what form of government they want. How can there be democracy without parties?

[Al-Bashir] Yes, the majority of the Sudanese people share my views about the failure of partisan practices. We do not want to repeat the same failure. We have tried it several times and it has failed every time. Observe what has happened since before Ibrahim 'Abbud. Then there was Ja'far Numayri, and his rule failed. That was followed by the people's April revolution when the parties assumed power. We are not prepared to repeat that process because the result is now quite clear.

The parties as they were before 30 June in Sudan evidently failed because they were not founded on a sound basis. They were based on sectarian partisan loyalties. There were closed areas in Sudan in the sense that a candidate for a certain area would win the constituency election, regardless of whether he was from that area or not, simply because these were the orders of the "master." It was difficult for the voters to elect the person they thought was qualified to represent them because they had to obey orders from above according to their sectarian loyalties.

The West's version of democracy cannot succeed in Sudan because the rate of illiteracy in Sudan is nearly 80 percent. That is why we want to develop the democratic experiment with the people's participation. We want to provide a certain form of democratic practice by letting the people themselves decide what kind of democratic system they want.

We would respond to any move to develop democratic practice because we do not want to be frozen in one particular mould. We want to respond to the movement of change and development led by the people in their exercise of democracy. We will not stick to one political system but will let the people make their choices of democratic practice, but once the system and foundations are laid down we will purge the political arena of sectarian practices. That way we will create a healthy and clean atmosphere that will enable the people to exercise ideal democracy and elect genuine representatives without any trusteeship or tutelage by any sectarian group.

[Al-'Umayr] The National Salvation Revolution is now 3 months old. Do you think you have made any mistakes?

[Al-Bashir] We are satisfied with what we have done so far and I do not believe that we have made any big mistakes, but we admit that we have faced obstacles and difficulties. One such difficulty was the fact that we inherited a collapsed economy, deteriorating security, and political isolation abroad. I can say that in this short period we have scored numerous successes in all fields. An observer can easily see that security prevails in the national capital and in the major towns where people once lived in fear and insecurity. Perhaps you noticed the barbed wire on top of most houses in the capital.

Politically, after the abolition of the parties the friction between members of the public has disappeared and the people's views on national issues are now in harmony. Perhaps the current national dialogue in Khartoum provides the irrefutable evidence that the people are beginning to forget their partisan differences. Some partisan leaders are taking part in the national conference but they have forgotten their political conflicts and intrigues and everyone is putting forward his views on ways of resolving the country's problems.

Economically, we have succeeded in our fight agaist the black market and illegal foreign currency dealers. The value of the Sudanese currency has increased 40 percent and we have been able to salvage the agricultural crops through appeals to the farmers—who were in dispute with the former regime—to return to their fields after making available the fuel necessary for a successful agricultural season with the help of brothers over a short period of time.

Regarding foreign relations, thank God, we now have close relations with all the Arab states and good relations with the neighboring African states, and we look forward to stronger relations with the Western states and the rest of the world.

I admit that we still have a shortage of sugar because of a mistake we made in trusting the former channels of distribution, because we left the direct supervision of sugar imports to Trade Ministry and Bank of Sudan officials, along with number of merchants. There were also some technical matters with which we were not very familiar, in the Finance Ministry, the Trade Ministry, and the Bank of Sudan. However, we have eliminated these shortcomings, which have been a stumbling block for us over the past 3 months.

[Al-'Umayr] Are you a Muhammad Najib, a 'Abd-al-Nasir, or a Ziaul Haq, and will the Command Council of the Revolution for National Salvation remain as it is or will the differences between its members change its present form?

[Al-Bashir] I am 'Umar Hasan, a Sudanese nationalist attached to this soil and this homeland with no foreign connections other than my Arab and African affiliation. I have no party affiliation. I did not engage in party activities even when I was a student and I could not possibly have engaged in such activity as an officer in the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Muhammad Najib was an honest man supported by the Egyptian people and Armed Forces. He played a limited role in the July 1952 revolution, unlike 'Abd-al-Nasir, who played the main role. Certain circumstances prevailed in the days of 'Abd al-Nasir and his revolution. It was a world of occupation, imperialism, and foreign bases. Hence his personality and quest for liberation, with the masses behind him. Our circumstances in Sudan are different and are very difficult in view of its major problems.

Regarding differences between the members of the Command Council of the Revolution for National Salvation, that is out of the question, because the Revolution Command Council [RCC] members were chosen carefully and in accordance with certain criteria. They are honest dedicated people. The proof is that neither the local intelligence service nor the world's intelligence services were able to know the organization which planned the revolution or the names of its members, despite the fact that the Armed Forces were [on the day of the revolution] on a 50-percent alert following the discovery of a coup attempt, and the fact that the security forces were on full alert. This shows the extent of commitment within the organization and shows that there is no possibility of a rift between members. Any claim of differences or rifts between the RCC members is nothing but rumor.

[Al-'Umayr] If there is no possibility of a split within the RCC, how do you explain the allegation that some RCC members have links with the National Islamic Front [NIF]?

[Al-Bashir] We are a movement for comprehensive change so we naturally have opponents who in their war against us use rumors and leaflets and stage demonstrations, strikes, and so on. Their war of rumors has so far not gone beyond the claim that the RCC members belong to a certain front. They could find no other charge, such as corruption or anything else, to level at the council or any of its members. Why do they accuse us of belonging to the Islamic Front and not any other party? Because, thank God, all the council members are religious people, which means they cannot be communists or members of the other leftist factions, and because all the parties except the front were in power when we carried out our movement. I think the philosophy behind that charge is to confine us to a narrow framework on the assumption that all the parties would join the opposition. Indeed, some party leaderships have joined the opposition but the rank and file of all parties are with us.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you have any dealings of any kind with the NIF or its leaders?

[Al-Bashir] We do not deal with any political group as a political entity but we have no objection to dealing with any Sudanese patriot, regardless of his party affiliation before 30 June. We have dealt with many party figures but in their personal capacity. They are now participating seriously and patriotically in the national dialogue conference. We will not deal with any party entity or political organization.

[Al-'Umayr] There are rumors in Sudan that the trials have been confined to the leaders of al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party and that no NIF members have been brought to trial.

[Al-Bashir] Actually, so far three people have faced trial: Idris al-Banna of the al-Ummah Party, 'Uthman 'Umar of the Democratic Unionist Party, and Majdhub al-Nur Khalifah of the NIF. Dr Pacifico from the South was also brought to trial.

[Al-'Umayr] Why were the sentences against the al-Ummah Party member the harshest?

[Al-Bashir] It was because of the crime. Pacifico was acquitted by the court.

[Al-'Umayr] That is a northern custom in relation to southerners, is it not?

[Al-Bashir] It was no such thing. We do not interfere with the court decisions. The southerners were surprised when we arrested them because there had never before been any arrests among them following a change of regime in Sudan. The court acquitted Dr Pacifico for lack of evidence. I do not know whether there were other charges.

[Al-'Umayr] It has been claimed that some RCC members belong to the NIF and that more than three ministers and some top civil service officials are also affiliated with the NIF. How true are these claims?

[Al-Bashir] I assure you that not a single RCC member belongs to the Islamic Front or has any political affiliation, but you could say some Sudanese people voted for one party or another in the elections.

Regarding cabinet ministers, we cannot say that any person affiliated with the NIF cannot participate in the government. We know that most Sudanese people had political affiliation but we deal with people in their individual capacity, not their party capacity.

We have treated the NIF as we have treated the other political parties regarding their abolition, confiscation of property and funds, and banned activities.

Regarding the three out of 19 ministers who, as you said, had NIF affiliations, that is probably a reasonable proportion if we bear in mind that the ministers are university graduates and the NIF won all related seats in the latest elections.

I assure you once more that we do not deal with anyone on the basis of his political affiliations, nor do we deal with anyone who was in a political leadership before 30 June. Perhaps the only leadership member we have selected—as deputy governor of the central province, and strictly on the basis of his qualifications—is Dr Muhammad Bakhit Jilani, who was a prominent member of the Democratic Unionist Party. We are always looking for qualifications, regardless of political leanings. A proof of that is the fact that the chairman of the board of the directors of the Sudanese Maritime Lines is Dr Abu Zayd Muhammad Salih, who was a minister representing the communists in the former government of the parties.

[Al-'Umayr] There is much talk about political detainees and it is claimed that the verdicts against some politicians were severe, which is contrary to the Sudanese people's forgiving and tolerant nature. Will the political detainees be held long or will they be brought to trial?

[Al-Bashir] The process of releasing political detainees is continuing. We have started a precautionary assessment of the detainees and we will release those who we feel are not a threat to the revolution. Naturally, the revolution had to resort to precautionary detention to protect itself. We inherited a situation fraught with corruption and we formed several committees to examine financial corruption. The committees have not submitted their findings yet, but whoever is proved innocent will be released. Once the investigations are completed, the trials will begin. We are awaiting the reports of these committees to ascertain innocence of some leaderships. We will not interfere with the decisions of the new revolutionary security courts.

For these courts in the next phase we have chosen civilian judges. They will include no military people and no one will be brought to trial just because he was in the leadership or held a constitutional post, but if such a person's performance led to corruption then he would face trial under the law.

[Al-'Umayr] Former President Numayri first supported you, then criticized some of your practices. What would happen to him if he returned to Sudan sometime in the future?

[Al-Bashir] Numayri would not be brought to trial on charges of political activity, carrying out a coup, or abolishing the country's Constitution, but if other charges were proved then he would be brought to trial. There were already committee's in the attorney general's office investigating his practices. Regarding his statements supporting or opposing us, they are of no value whatsoever, as far as we are concerned. Furthermore, Numayri was one of the main causes of Sudan's current problems. These problems did not start in the era of the parties. They started under Numayri's reign, such as, for example, the war in the South, the economic deterioration, and so forth. In brief, all of Sudan's current problems began in Numayri's era.

[Al-'Umayr] Has there been any direct or indirect contact between you and Numayri?

[Al-Bashir] No, there have been no contacts and we have no intention of contacting him at all. I believe that his role in Sudan's political life is over. (Al-Bashir said this sentence sharply and firmly).

[Al-'Umayr] Speaking of contacts with Numayri, do you intend to contact other politicians in the interest of national reconciliation?

[Al-Bashir] We do not act haphazardly or in a vacuum. Our declared rejection of political entities of any color is final but we would accept any kind of reconciliation with individuals on an individual, not partisan, basis and we would try to absorb all Sudanese capabilities in the political arena.

We are ready for dialogue with any Sudanese on the basis of his being Sudanese—but with no party considerations.

As for Numayri, he ruled for 16 years and played his part fully, beginning on the extreme left and ending on the extreme right. He tried all political trends. We have serious disagreements with him on the problems which he caused and on his conduct of government and leadership. We believe he played his part for 16 years and has nothing to contribute to resolving Sudan's problems.

[Al-'Umayr] Some obstacles stand in the way of Sudan's exports. Why do you not try to eliminate these obstacles? What about encouraging investments in Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] We are taking measures to encourage exports. One proof is that when we saw that the export of Arab glue was in jeopardy we decided to change the exchange rate in relation to the dollar. Since assuming power in Sudan, we have worked to remove obstacles in the way of our exports. We cannot possibly place obstacles in the way of our national exports. Our policy is based on encouraging exports, not the opposite.

There are committees reviewing past export policies—particularly cases of export without records of returns at the Bank of Sudan or the specialized channels.

As for investments, we do encourage investment and we will promulgate a new investment law and create a new body that will help the investor and spare his having to go through several channels by making it easer for him to deal directly with that body on all investment matters. That would save time and effort because there will only be one authority for the investors to deal with.

There may be cases with special circumstances and complications, but our general policy is to encourage exports and investment.

We will seek to correct the wrong practices of certain exporters, because some of them did not process their export revenues through the Bank of Sudan.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you believe that the new economic measures you intend to introduce will not affect your standing as a new government?

[Al-Bashir] We will take several economic measures to reduce the deficit. These measures include a cut in government expenditures, rationalization of expenditures, steps to increase revenue, and an improvement of the tax system, because the present tax system is not in harmony with the new economic policies, since major financiers pay little tax, while employees pay high taxes directly deducted from their monthly salaries. So we will review the tax system. All bills will be subject to tax and there will be special books which will be applied and will ensure that financial transactions proceed correctly.

[Al-'Umayr] It is rumored abroad that you are always referring to the possibility of the South's secession from the North.

[Al-Bashir] I have not spoken about or referred to the South's secession at all. That is out of the question. We will never forfeit a single inch of Sudanese territory. The problem is perhaps that the southerners are divided among themselves as to whether theirs should be one province or three. I ask them to agree and to decide what they want.

Regarding the problem of the South as a whole, we will proceed with the peaceful solution to the end, but if war is imposed on us then we will fight and will never give up one inch of our territory.

[Al-'Umayr] Next we would ask about your foreign policy and your attitude toward Iran, about rumors that no meeting was held between you and President Mubarak in Belgrade, and also about relations with Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Bashir] The Iranians have begun fabricating problems with us, but we have not dealt with them at all because we are concerned with our own local affairs. Our recent move of withdrawing our ambassador from Tehran was an expression of our resentment of Iran's unjustified attitude.

I think that our problem with the Iranians is that they consider Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to be their man in Sudan and the Arab world.

Regarding relations with Egypt and President Husni Mubarak and the fact that I did not meet with him in Belgrade, I do not know why people concern themselves with that. My relationship with President Mubarak does not require that we meet on certain occasion. We meet all the time. I had previously met with him three times, in Khartoum, Cairo, and Addis Ababa. In my view our relations are at their best and neither I nor he feels any embarrassment about not meeting in Belgrade, where he spent only a day and then went to Mauritania.

As for relations with Saudi Arabia, I thank God that there has been no crisis in these relations, which confirms the strength and cordiality of these relations and eternal links between the peoples of the two countries. These relations have been strong, solid, and interlinked since time immemorial.

I thank Saudi Arabia for its constant valuable aid to Sudan under all circumstances. Furthermore, through its prominent world standing, Saudi Arabia made our task easier when it promptly recognized our movement, thus earning us more respect.

I receive daily reports about the flow of Saudi aid for Sudan in various fields. That makes me more proud and more eager to further develop our cordial and fraternal relations.

Peace Conference Committee Favors 'Federal Rule'

EA1510064889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The national dialogue peace conference steering committee held a meeting today, chaired by Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and chairman of the committee. The committee heard the final report by the alternative solutions committee. The chairman of the committee, Mr Philip Obang, spoke about the tasks entrusted to the committee. He thanked all those who participated in working out the report. Following that, Dr 'Abd-al-Sami 'Umar, member of the committee, read out the final report of the alternative solutions committee, reviewing the basic pillars of the report which contained suitable formulas for the system of government in Sudan. He said federal rule must achieve the objective of citizenship and a balanced economy in addition to a formula of power sharing.

He added that identity was not a basic factor for the kind of rule. He pointed to the regional government in the south and the north and said that it caused many differences and hindered the performance of public service.

The report said that federal rule was the best alternative for government in Sudan due to its vastness, due to its being a neighbor to African countries, besides the poor economic and social development, and it said that the diverse cultural and social aspects in a federal system would consolidate the Sudanese nation and create a conducive atmosphere for the sons of all regions to govern themselves.

The report also touched on the development of federal rule and its various organs and on general recommendations, such as the authority and specialties of the states and the federal immunities, besides national income, and on recommendations on state and religion.

Federal Rule Report Approved

EA1510202689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0450 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Ladies and Gentlemen: We greet you from Friendship Hall in Khartoum. We are following the deliberations of the National Dialogue Conference on Peace. Our report on the final report of the alternative solutions committee:

Yesterday's session was chaired by Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the [NSRCC] National Salvation Revolution Command Council and chairman of the conference steering committee. The session heard the final report of the alternative solutions committee. It included a preamble from the chairman of the committee, Mr Philip Obang, in which he thanked all those who had contributed towards the progress of the report to its final form. He explained the efforts that had been

made in this respect and called on the conference participants to discuss the report objectively so as to arrive at a final form which satisfied everyone.

Following that, Dr 'Abd-al-Sami 'Umar read out the final report of the alternative solutions committee. It covered all the possible options, presenting federal rule as the best alternative and examining all aspects of this option. The floor was opened to the deliberations by the conference participants in order to ascertain opinions, and viewpoints on the final report of the alternative solutions committee. [passage omitted]

Dr Abdullah Idris, rapporteur of the alternative solutions committee, replied to questions posed during the discussions, stating that the points which had been raised would be taken into consideration in arriving at an ideal reconciliatory form of solutions, and thanking the conference participants for their enthusiasm and the seriousness of their approach during the discussion.

Dr Abdullah Ali Ibrahim, member of the alternative solutions committee, spoke on the issue of cultural diversity. The final report was then approved by the participants of the conference. [passage omitted]

SPLM/SPLA on Opposition to Islamic Law Plan

EA1510195389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Listeners, as you know the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] leadership has been searching for ways and means of achieving peace. The SPLM/SPLA leader's tour of southern African countries was exactly that: a quest for peace, but not for weapons. However, because these countries are interested in the achievement of permanent peace in our country, they have given us their total support, as reported on Radio SPLA and other radios.

However, the regime in Khartoum is still interested in deceiving the Sudanese people. It has now said that Islamic federalism is to be imposed in our country, so that some federal states in our country will have Islamic law imposed upon them, while other states, according to them, will have no Shari'ah. This means a division of the country. You are all aware of SPLM/SPLA policies. We are not interested in that kind of divisive federalism; we want a united, prosperous Sudan.

The Khartoum regime is currently looking for weapons. Yesterday, the Khartoum regime appeared in its true colors, when it announced that some of their powerful weapons had arrived in Juba town, and that they wanted to recapture all those areas under the control of the SPLA. This, listeners, is war that the Khartoum Islamic regime wants to restart. Listeners, if the war is restarted it will mean that our people will face yet more death and suffering. Why should our people die, when we are calling for peace and an end to death and suffering in the Sudan?

This regime is just like the previous regimes and is, therefore, a bad regime. The regime must be gone and you, the people, must reject fighting just as we have rejected fighting.

Sources Report Release of Former Officials

JN1510191989 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 14 Oct 89 pp 1, 20

[Text] Khartoum—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Sudanese authorities have released a number of political detainees, including former State Council members Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj-al-Din, Mirghani al-Nasri, and Pacifico Lado Lolik. Mirghani 'Abd-al-Rahman Sulayman, former minister of trade affairs; Hasan Shabu, member of the Political Bureau of the dissolved Democratic Unionist Party; and the former minister of relief and migrant affairs were also released from jail.

Mrs Sarah al-Fadil Mahmud, wife of former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; Rashidah 'Abd-al-Karim, former minister of state at the Ministry of Education; and Sarah Naqdallah, member of the dissolved al-Ummah Party, were also released.

The sources also expect Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the dissolved Democratic Unionist Party, to be released soon, adding that former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi may be placed under house arrest.

The sources further said that the 40-year prison sentence handed down by one of the military courts against Idris al-Banna, former State Council member, may be canceled. They also expect former Housing Minister 'Uthman 'Umar al-Sharif to be released after his 5-year prison sentence is annulled.

More Time Allowed To Declare Foreign Currency

EA1410211689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The governor of the Bank of Sudan today issued an order providing for an amendment in the time allowed for declarations to the customs concerning the import of foreign currency to 2 months instead of 3 weeks. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Cypriot President Stages 1-Day Visit to Manama

Arrives 14 Oct

JN1410170089 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Manama, Oct 14 (GNA)—Cyprus President Yeoryios Vasiliou arrived in Manama this evening for a one-day visit to Bahrain.

He was received by H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Force Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, and other top officials.

Vasiliou will hold talks with H.H. the amir on means of developing bilateral relations, current Gulf, Arab and international issues and matters of mutual interest.

Opens Talks With Amir

JN1410222089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 OCT 89

[Text] Manama, 14 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini officials, led by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, and Cypriot officials, led by Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou, began talks in Manama this evening. The talks centered on promoting bilateral relations in various areas, the current developments in the region, the situation in the Middle East, the Cyprus issue, and other issues of common interest. The amir of the State of Bahrain gave a banquet in honor of the Cypriot president and his delegation.

Makes Statement, Heads to Asia

JN1510113589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Manama, 15 Oct (WAKH)—Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou left Manama for Singapore this morning following a 1-day official visit to Bahrain.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, held talks last night with his Cypriot guest. The talks centered on bolstering bilateral ties in various spheres, the current developments in the Middle East region, the efforts being made to achieve peace, and the Cyprus issue.

President Vasiliou is to pay an official visit to Singapore, followed by a similar visit to Malaysia to attend the Commonwealth summit beginning there on 18 October.

The Cypriot president paid tribute to Bahraini-Cypriot ties and said that they have always been distinguished and good.

In a departure statement to WAKH, Vasiliou said that Cyprus has always appreciated the Bahraini Government's support for Cypriot efforts to find a solution to the Cyprus conflict.

The Cypriot president said that he briefed His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, during their talks last night on the latest developments in the efforts to achieve peace in Cyprus. He added that their talks also concerned ways to develop bilateral relations. He went on to say that he exchanged views with the Bahraini amir on the current international situation.

The Cypriot president said that he agreed with the Bahraini amir on promoting the existing bilateral ties. He added that there is an intention to develop and enhance these ties, especially in the field of economic cooperation. He announced that he had invited the Bahraini amir to visit Cyprus at a time the amir finds suitable, adding that the amir had accepted the invitation.

Kuwait

Government To Try Pro-Iranian Group Members

PM1610110489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Oct 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Kuwait To Try Members of Two Cells Affiliated With Iran"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Gulf Bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that in early November the Kuwaiti state security court will begin the trial of two political groups belonging to an outlawed party affiliated with Iran.

It has been learned that the Kuwaiti authorities have completed their questioning of the accused members of the two groups and have referred the files of the two cases to the state security prosecutor's office, which deals with such cases.

Several charges have been brought by the authorities against the accused, most of whom are Kuwaiti citizens, including conspiring against the regime, cooperating with banned political circles, and other crimes punishable under the law.

The Kuwaiti authorities arrested the accused in two separate cases.

This takes the number of cases brought before the state security court to nine in 3 years.

PDRY

Lebanese Communist Action Leader Departs Aden

EA1610141989 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 15 Oct 89

[Text] The secretary general of the Organization of Communist Action in Lebanon, Brother Muhsin Ibrahim, left Aden this evening following a visit to the PDRY. During the visit, which lasted several days, Brother Muhsin Ibrahim participated in our Yemeni people's festivities on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the great October revolution.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Muhsin Ibrahim said he was pleased with the visit and the hospitality he received. He said the visit had been a good opportunity for meeting party and state officials. He pointed out that the meetings had been comprehensive and far-reaching. They had touched on Arab affairs in general and Yemen and Lebanon in particular. He also said that the visit had been an occasion to affirm and deepen the strong existing relations between the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the Organization of Communist Action in Lebanon. He said the visit affirmed the depth and strength of the commitment towards all questions of the Arab nation, the Arab national liberation movement, and the principled stand of the YSP towards the Lebanese question.

At the end of his statement, he touched on the importance of the ongoing search in the PDRY under the banner of comprehensive reform. He said: I have been present at the beginning of a profound discussion, and I hope that its outcome will be fruitful and deepen the revolutionary experience in the PDRY.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Muhammad Sa'id Abdullah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee.

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With Poland

JN1610181489 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, Oct 16 (GNA)—The State of Qatar and the Polish People's Republic decided to establish diplomatic ties as of today at the ambassadorial level, a joint statement released today said.

The statement cited that the two countries, out of joint desire to strengthen and develop ties of frendship and cooperation between each other, have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today.

The two sides expressed joint confidence that establishing such ties would help promote international cooperation, boost world peace and strengthen the sublime principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, the statement said.

The State of Qatar and Poland reaffirm their preparedness to build their bilateral relations in accordance with the United Nations Charter and on the bases of peaceful co-existence, equality, mutual respect to sovereignty and the territorial integrity of each other and the non-interference in each other's internal affairs, the joint statement concluded.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Ministry Condemns Ankara Bombing

LD1710035489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Oct (SPA)—An official source at the Foreign Ministry gave the following statement to an SPA correspondent:

On Monday, 16 October, at 9:30 am, as Abd al-Rahman al-Shiriwi, the accountant of the military mission in Ankara, was getting out of his car after parking it opposite the building of the mission, an explosion occurred in his car, destroying it and inflicting serious injuries on him and slight damage on the building. The custodian of the two holy mosques ordered the immediate sending of an ambulance aircraft which transferred the wounded official to Saudi Arabia for the necessary medical treatment.

The government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, as it announces this news, strongly condemns this criminal cowardly action which contradicts the principles of our true religion and contradicts the most basic ethical principles and human values. The government also shares the feelings of sorrow of the family of Mr Abd al-Rahman al-Shiriwi because of this painful incident. At the same time the government expresses its full confidence that the Turkish Government will not spare any efforts in chasing the culprits, arresting them, and punishing them firmly. "If a man kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell, to abide therein (forever): and the wrath and curse of God are upon him, and a dreadful penalty is prepared for him." [Koranic verse] God has spoken the truth.

YAR President Lauds Stand on Yemenis

LD1410040189 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] During his visit to the Kingdom, the President of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], Colonel 'Ali Abdullah Salih, has expressed to King Fahd Ibn-Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, his pleasure and appreciation of the fraternal stand demonstrated by his brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Speaking in Dhi al-Hijjah, he said that the Saudi officials' understanding of the issue of exempting Yemenis who reside in the Kingdom from the ruling that pertains to the aliens law, along with the officials' positive stand, demonstrated the depth of the excellent and special fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and peoples.

In a statement to yesterday's [13 October] Paris-based AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, the YAR president said that supreme Arab interest and the reality of the current epoch make it imperative to work for the achievement of economic and political integration among the countries of the Arab world, because that would strengthen Arab capabilities and lead to the fulfillment of Arab societies' hopes for solidarity and unity. He pointed out that the Arab Cooperation Council was trying to achieve that integration in a way that would strengthen the Arab League's role.

United Arab Emirates

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Arrives on Visit 16 Oct

JN1610181089 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 16 (GNA)—Head of the PLO's Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, arrived here this evening on a short visit to convey the condolences of the Palestinian leadership to UAE leaders on the death of Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan.

He was met at the airport by 'Ubayd Salim al-Za'abi, director of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, and Palestinian Ambassador Khalid Malak.

Ethiopian Envoy Arrives With Message 15 Oct

JN1510134789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 15 (WAKH)—Kasa Kibbida, member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and official in charge of party cadres at the Ethiopian president's office [name and title as received], arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The Ethiopian envoy is carrying a message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president.

Delivers Message to President

JN1610214189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Oct (WAKH)—Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a written message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam dealing with bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Kasa Kibbida, member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and official in charge of party cadres at the Ethiopian president's office [name and title as received], who is currently visting the country at the head of an Ethiopian delegation, conveyed the message to Shaykh Zayid in Abu Dhabi today. The meeting was attended by Hamdan Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Sa'd Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, member of the Executive Counci and official in charge of the planning department.

Oil Minister Leaves for New Delhi With Message

JN1610163389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 16 (GNA)—The UAE [United Arab Emirates] minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, left today for New Delhi. During his trip to New Delhi, he will convey a message from President Shaykh Zayed Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The letter deals with bilateral ties and a number of issues of mutual concern.

Yemen Arab Republic

Ethiopian Prime Minister, Delegation on Visit

Arrives, Issues Statement

JN1310230289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, member of the Political Bureau of the Worker's Party of Ethiopia's Central Committee and prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon heading a delegation on a visit to our country.

Receiving him at the airport were Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; a number of the brother ministers, Standing Committee members, and ranking military and civil officials; and Ethiopian Ambassador to Sanaa (Geran Wolde-Mariam).

At the airplane's steps, the brother prime minister embraced the Ethiopian prime minister. The prime minister then shook hands with the members of the Ethiopian delegation. After that, the prime minister accompanied the guest to the honor dais where the two national anthems of the friendly countries were played. They then reviewed the guard of honor which lined up to greet them.

The Ethiopian prime minister then shook hands with his welcomers—the ministers, Standing Committee members, and ranking military and civilian officals. He shook hands with members of the embassy staff and a number of the Ethiopian community in Sanaa.

The guest is accompanied by an escort mission headed by Electricity and Water Minister Jamal Muhammad 'Abduh.

The prime minister and member of the Worker's Party of Ethiopia's Political Bureau made a statement to SABA' news agency in which he expressed his joy over visiting our country. He said: The purpose of our visit is to explain the events in our country to His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the prime minister, and our brothers in Yemen, especially those issues dealing with the region of northern Eritrea. There are numerous talks and discussions taking place to end the problem there through a peaceful solution.

He concluded his statement saying: We also come to hold talks with the prime minister on developing bilateral relations between the two countries, which are linked by strong and historic ties and relations of race and blood which bind the two countries of Yemen and Ethiopia.

A short meeting took place between Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and Ethiopian Prime Minister Fikre-Selassie upon the arrival of the Ethiopian guest at his place of residence in Sanaa.

The delegation accompanying the Ethiopian prime minister includes [name indistinct], the candidate nominated to the membership of the Political Bureau of the Worker's Party of Ethiopia's Central Committee; Yusuf Ahmed, Central Committee member and vice president of Council of State; [name indistinct], minister of cabinet affairs [title as heard]; and (Chok Pai), deputy and secretary to the prime minister.

Received by Salih

JN1510135089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, Armed Forces commander in chief, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, member of the Political Bureau of the Worker's Party of Ethiopia's Central Committee and prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and his delegation.

During the meeting, the Ethiopian prime minister conveyed a message to the brother president from Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council in Socialist Ethiopia, dealing with bilateral relations, current regional and international issues, and issues of mutual interest.

The Ethiopian official briefed the brother president on the nature of the dialogue under way to settle the Eritrean problem. The brother president reiterated our country's support for the current efforts to arrive at a peaceful solution to the Eritrean problem, which will bring about security and stability to friendly Ethiopia. [passage omitted]

Concludes Discussions 15 Oct

JN1510170389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Talks between our country and Ethiopia were concluded in Sanaa today. The talks were presided over by Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the prime minister and Standing Committee member, and Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, member of the Political Bureau of the Worker's Party of Ethiopia's Central Committee and prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

At the beginning of the session, Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani delivered a speech in which he reiterated his welcome for the visitor and those accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Fikre-Selassie Departs

JN1510191089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, member of the Political Bureau of the Worker's Party of Ethiopia's Central Committee and prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and his delegation left Sanaa this afternoon.

He was accorded an official send-off ceremony at Sanaa international airport headed by Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the prime minister and Standing Committee member. [passage omitted]

Swedish Foreign Trade Minister Leaves Sanaa

JN1410073489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Swedish Foreign Trade Minister Anita Gradin left Sanaa this evening after a 4-day visit to our country. During the visit, she held economic and trade talks with the brother officials in the Ministries of Economy, Supply, and Trade and Electricity and Water; the central planning body, and the general federation of the chambers of commerce. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Meets With PLO's Hawatimah, 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN1610182689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1809 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this evening with Nayif Hawatimah and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, members of the PLO Central Council.

They discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

The meeting was attended by the deputy director of the Revolution Command Council's Bureau of Arab Liberation Movements, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department, and the state of Palestine's ambassador to Baghdad.

Iraq Alleges 73 Iranian Cease-Fire Violations

JN1610211389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Iraq has asserted that Iran made 73 violations of the cease-fire between 10 and 18 September.

In a message presented to the UN Security Council, Iraq explained that the violations included building observation posts close to Iraqi posts and digging new trenches for transportation, which were sighted by the UN observers.

The message said that Iranian helicopters carried out a number of sorties near the Iraqi borders. It also said that infantry posts and firing ranges were built and the Iranian side continued to flood certain areas in the southern sector.

Saddam Receives Senegalese Chief of Staff

JN1610123489 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 16, INA—President Saddam Husayn received this morning general Mamadou Mansour Seck, chief-of-staff of Senegal's Armed Forces.

General Seck conveyed to President Husayn a verbal message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf dealing with bilateral relations.

The audience was attended by General Nizar Abd-al-Karim, chief of staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces, and the Senegalese ambassador in Baghdad.

British Energy Secretary Leaves Baghdad 16 Oct

JN1610101689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—John Wakeham, British secretary of state for energy, and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad early this morning after a 2-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Hasan Meets With CSSR Foreign Trade Minister

JN1710072489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industries, today met with Jan Sterba, CSSR minister of foreign trade, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, which was attended by the senior under secretary of the ministry, the two ministers reviewed the march of the Iraqi-CSSR cooperation in industrial and economic spheres and ways to develop them to serve the mutual interests of the two friendly countries.

Paper Urges Iran To Stop Beating 'War Drums'

JN0810125189 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 8, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-THAWRAH called here today on Iran to stop the beating of war drums and to stop threatening to resume aggression.

In an article published here today, the paper said that Iraq had expressed its good intentions towards Iran through remarkable practical steps and released many batches of Iranian sick and handicapped and children prisoners of war (POW's).

Iraq also demobilized more than 203,000 troops of the Iraqi Armed Forces throughout ten months.

The article stressed that Iraq who demobilized thousands of its troops and tended towards reconstruction developing confirmed its sincere desire to realize real, permanent and comprehensive peace.

The Iraqi daily compared between the Iraqi and Iranian attitudes and said that Iran had never had an initiative that showed its good intentions towards achieving peace with Iraq except agreeing on a ceasefire. The paper said that Iran was still insisting on interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and those of the Arab Gulf countries and was deviating from the Iraqi proposal to carry out direct and comprehensive exchange of POW's.

The AL-THAWRAH daily concluded its article by saying that Iran should resort to its senses and abide by the principles of goodneighbourliness and to open a new page of Arab-Iranian relations.

Shomron Receives Report on MiG Incident Probe

IAF's Performance Reviewed

TA1610153389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron has received the results of the investigation into the flight of the Syrian MiG-23 and its landing in Israel.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that as a result of the report there will be a revision of Israeli Air Force [IAF] regulations and procedures governing the intrusion of foreign aircraft. The report also addresses the performance of officials of the IAF's air control and reporting systems. The report points out, among other things, that the intruding plane was detected by at least four different early warning systems. At one point, however, it disappeared, causing a high-ranking officer to conclude that it was a pilotless plane. He therefore decided against sending planes to intercept it.

Further on Investigation

TA1710074389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Oct 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] Tel Aviv—Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron yesterday accepted all the recommendations of the two senior Air Force officers appointed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the defection last Wednesday of a Syrian Air Force pilot, and has ordered the IAF [Israel Air Force] to reprimand two officers, a colonel and a lieutenant colonel, for "an error in judgement" and "faulty reporting," Shomron said last night.

The two-man investigative team, headed by Brig. Gen. Herzl Bodinger, presented their findings and recommendations to Shomron earlier yesterday in a 52-page report. They made seven recommendations in the "technical" and personal realms.

Shomron, in a briefing with defence reporters at his bureau, refused to divulge what the technical recommendations were.

Bodinger and his assistant, a colonel, found that the Syrian MiG-23, which was flying low and fast when it crossed the border in the northern Golan Heights, was picked up immediately by the IAF, and that all the mandatory actions were carried out by the air defence apparatus according to practice.

However the investigators noted that as a result of a faulty report (by the lieutenant colonel), the steps were halted "at some point."

The investigators recommended that Shomron order the IAF to reprimand the colonel, who had been the duty officer responsible for air defence at the time, for his poor judgement, and to inform the lieutenant colonel of his faulty reporting, "which contributed to the error in judgement."

Responding to reporters' questions, Shomron said the IAF would wear itself down trying to prevent all incursions of Israeli air space, and that therefore a situation exists where on occasion a sole plane can enter Israeli air space "on a one-way ticket."

Shomron said that as a rule, if a plane is seen to enter Israeli air space, it is assumed to be hostile, and all efforts should be made to shoot it down. Such should have been the case in this incident, he said.

Asked if one plane on a bombing mission posed a real threat, Shomron responded that such a happening was highly unlikely.

"Even Syria wouldn't send just one plane on a mission. The story doesn't end there. There would be many other signs of preparations that we would notice and we could significantly reinforce our air defence apparatus.

"Could someone take a plane on a bombing mission on his own? I don't know, but it's not worse than a situation where someone sends a bus into a ravine.

"There is no situation of 100 per cent security. We must constantly rely on our judgement and take calculated risks. We take calculated risks every day. Let the press say what it wants, but we will continue to take calculated risks. That is how we live; we have no choice. The alternative is to wear down all our defence systems and not have them ready when they are really needed."

Shomron added that if the IAF anticipated more attempted incursions, then the given situation on which the IAF determines its responses would be different.

Asked if the senior of the two officers should be reprimanded in light of the fact that he received incorrect information, Shomron said:

"We are always acting in conditions of uncertainty, and therefore we must make decisions in such conditions. Even if some of the information he had was incorrect, the commander still had to make a decision."

Shomron said the punishments were administrative. "No one broke a rule, failed to perform his duty, or exceeded his authority."

Shomron also played down the significance of the investigation, saying the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] investigated all of its activities, "even the most successful of them.

"Given the complexities of our operations, there is no situation where some error isn't committed," he said.

According to a senior Air Force officer who accompanied Shomron, a number of the avionics systems on the plane were very advanced and had yet to be seen in the West. As to the plane itself, the officer said, it is known

in the West and the IDF's possession of it will not result in any major breakthroughs.

Shomron called the pilot's defection "a major blow" to Syria and its air force. The pilot, Maj. Muhamed Basim 'Adil, was a veteran pilot and a former flight instructor, and had been sent on a special course in the Soviet Union.

"The pilot is considered to be from among their front line. This is a blow to their morale, beyond the intelligence blow which results from the pilot knowing a lot and from our acquisition of the plane's systems."

Shomron said the pilot had flown on a more-or-less direct course from the point where he crossed the border to Megiddo, noting that "'Adil had thought of landing on the Hadera-'Afula road, before noticing the air field at Megiddo.

Referring to the 20 minutes it took an IAF team to reach Megiddo, Shomron said that by sheer chance a reservist Armoured Corps officer was driving by the air strip and saw the plane, identifying it as a MiG-23 with Syrian markings. The officer drove his car straight onto the runway and pulled out a revolver, aiming it at the Syrian pilot while he was still in the cockpit.

In the past, the IDF has been hesitant to reveal the outcome of internal investigations. Military sources said last night's briefing for defence reporters was intended to put to rest the public debate over the incident.

A copy of the inquiry's findings was given to Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Shomron, Rabin and senior IAF officers will present the detailed findings to government ministers at the next cabinet meeting.

Shomron Discusses Conclusions

TA1610203789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky on 16 October—recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, the main conclusions concerning the landing of the Syrian MiG-23 at Megiddo were released this evening. What are your own main conclusions and recommendations?

[Shomron] The Syrian plane was detected by our antiaircraft defense system the moment it penetrated Israeli airspace. All action demanded by the penetration of a foreign aircraft was taken according to standing operating procedures, and was done just fine.

[Shlonsky] So what happened?

[Shomron] Later on, due to miscalculation by the officer in charge and an inaccurate report relayed to him, this response was terminated.

[Shlonsky] Had there been more than one plane that same day and at the same time, at 1100, would they have been able to penetrate Israeli airspace?

[Shomron] Our antiaircraft defense system, perhaps one of the best in existence, is designed to provide good and reliable defense, and it constantly adjusts to the gravity of the threat—the gravest threat being war, and all the way down to the present calm. Even when the situation is calm, a single maverick plane can penetrate in one direction. This may happen, but those are very rare events. Of course, if a few planes linked to a larger system are involved, the situation would be entirely different. I would say that such a situation is almost inconceivable.

[Shlonsky] What changes, that you can refer to in public, will you introduce in the wake of what happened?

[Shomron] We detected several technical malfunctions. Incidentally, I would say these were marginal malfunctions, but we will improve and deal with them as necessary. In terms of people, I have instructed the Air Force commander to summon and reprimand the officer in charge who miscalculated; the air controller who relayed inaccurate information to the officer, leading to the miscalculation on his part, will also be summoned by the Air Force commander. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 2030 GMT on 16 October adds that the officer in charge is a colonel, and the air controller is a lieutenant colonel. The air controller will receive a written reprimand, the radio adds.]

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, if these are the main personal conclusions, do you not feel that usually, in cases of malfunction or even blunder, personal responsibility in the Israeli army stops halfway and does not really affect the top echelons?

[Shomron] I say that is absolute nonsense. Our debriefings from all events, including absolutely successful operations, are very thorough, even when the media get no wind of them and they are not public knowledge. We probe all malfunctions, even in successful cases. I think all of us, I at least, are not at all afflicted by the hysteria and hue and cry raised by the media. We probe everything in an absolutely matter-of-fact manner.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much.

Religious Parties Review Coalition Preferences

TA1710085889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Report by Sheli Yehimovitch]

[Text] Although the religious parties received no new propositions from either the Likud or the Alignment yesterday, they continued formulating their positions on the question of joining either major party if and when the political process—as well as the tension betwe[illegible] the

Likud and the Alignment—reach the point of crisis and the dissolution of the government.

The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leaders agree, for the time being at least, that the party should not bolt the coalition and should do everything possible to preserve the unity government. This preference is the result of both the party's satisfaction with what it has gained from the unity government and the fact that the need to decide between joining either the Likud or the Alignment may cause an internal rift in that party, which is divided by the controversy between its hawks and doves.

As for Agudat Yisra'el, the tendency in that party is to finally decide to bolt the unity government immediately after the Sukkoth holidays [ending 21 October]. The decision, which has been in the offing for several weeks, has been accelerated by the appointment [by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir] of Shmu'el Slavin as acting director general of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, instead of an Agudat Yisra'el official. The nomination caused anger toward the Likud. Likud sources have stressed that the ministry is waiting for Agudat Yisra'el, and that the appointment of an acting director general was a temporary measure. A final decision on the coalition issue will be made in next Sunday's Agudat Yisra'el Central Committee meeting; it will be coordinated with the party's Council of Sages.

The Degel Hatora Party is still undecided. Party leader Rabbi Schach has advised the party not to respond to the proposals of either the left- or right-wing parties. His personal preference is a coalition with the Labor Party. At this point, however, everything is open. The party leaders are to consult with Rabbi Schach this week, but during the meeting, these instructions may be altered.

It must be emphasized that at the present stage, all these decisions and inclinations are mere theories. The unity government is not about to dissolve for the time being, at least not before the Histadrut elections and Prime Minister Shamir's visit to the United States. The contacts between the parties are designed to prepare the ground for a crisis, if one occurs, rather than accelerate a genuine political move.

Envoy Denies France Expelling Mosad Agents

TA1710072889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpts] French magazines and sources specializing in intelligence affairs are reporting on difficulties in the functioning of the Mosad—Israel's secret intelligence service—in Europe; on the expulsion of Israeli agents from France; and on the departure of agents from Belgium.

French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe also told our correspondent in Paris that a new institute for internal security established by the French Government will cooperate with Israel. [passage omitted]

Speaking with our correspondent Gid'on Kouts, Israel's ambassador to France, 'Ovadya Sofer, denied reports of the alleged expulsion of Israeli agents from France. He said that these reports are totally groundless, and are part of a deliberate disinformation campaign designed to harm Israel.

Railroad Director Granted Entry Visa to Cuba

TA1310113089 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by Eli Tavori]

[Excerpt] "Does a country as small as Israel have a train?" Cuban leader Fidel Castro jokingly asked Eliyahu Baraq, the director general of Israel Railways.

Baraq is the first Israeli to have been granted an official entry visa into Cuba since it severed relations with Israel in 1973. He went to Cuba to attend a congress on South American railways. He also was the only participant in the congress with whom Castro stopped to talk for over 10 minutes. [passage omitted]

New Detention Facility Set Up Near Khan Yunus

TA1710085089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has set up a facility near Khan Yunus for detainees being held for questioning. The purpose of the new facility is to allow the detention of Gaza Strip suspects in proper conditions for periods exceeding 24 hours.

The facility can accommodate 60 detainees, and is operated by the IDF's criminal investigation division.

Man Jailed for Publicly Supporting Intifadah

TA1310120189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] The 'Akko District Court has handed down a 2-month prison sentence and a 3,000-shekel fine to Wajih 'Abud from the village of Sakhnin, who was convicted of publicly expressing support for the intifadah. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that during a celebration marking a soccer team's victory some 3 months ago, 'Abud sang songs of praise about the uprising.

Court Sentences Arab to 10 Years for 'Spying'

TA1510131289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Muhammad (Masawa), 42, of Baqa al-Gharbiyya, who was convicted of serious spying charges against the State of Israel, was sentenced to 10 years in prison a short time ago. (Masawa) was convicted last week of transmitting to a British Marxist organization confidential police documents which dealt with Shin Bet investigations into the Bus No. 300 affair. [The Shin Bet was

found to have murdered two Arabs who had hijacked a bus on the Tel Aviv-Ashqelon route after they had given themselves up in April 1984.]

In handing down the sentence, the judges said that the confidential information reached the Militant Organization, but was not published in its bulletin. They said they avoided handing down a harsher sentence because (Masawa) made the impression of being a warm person and an idealist who aspires to a joint Jewish-Arab society.

Our court correspondent Amir Fink reports that Avigdor Feldman, (Masawa's) attorney, is going to appeal the conviction to the Supreme Court.

Violence, Strikes, Curfews in Territories

Arab Runs Over 2 Israelis

TA1310114289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] In the Gaza Strip this morning, an Israeli civilian and a soldier were injured when an Arab driver purposely ran them down. The civilian was seriously hurt and taken by helicopter to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. The soldier was lightly hurt and taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. An officer and a soldier who witnessed the incident fired at the vehicle. The driver was wounded and taken also to Barzilay Hospital.

Last night the army sealed the houses of two Gaza Strip residents suspected of being central figures in the uprising strike force. They are thought to be responsible for kidnapping and attacking Arabs suspected of cooperating with the authorities.

Also in Gaza, the army placed a curfew on the al-Shati' refugee camp after disturbances there, following the death of a youth yesterday.

In Nabulus there is a general strike today to mourn two youths killed by army gunfire yesterday.

Cars were pelted with stones today on the 'Akko-Zefat highway near the village of Dayr al-Asad. One car was damaged. Police arrested 3 suspects, including a 16-year-old youth who confessed to throwing stones.

2 Deaths; Curfew Imposed

TA1310202489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Two Arab youths were killed in Judaea and Samaria this evening in clashes with soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that 'Azmi Fathi Abu-Ziyad, aged 18, was killed in Qalqilyah. Military sources have reported that he tried to attack a border policemen with an ax. Another youth was apprehended. The security forces imposed a curfew on Qalqilyah. Arab residents told our correspondent that the relatives of the dead man were required to show up at the Civil Administration offices.

The other person who was killed is a resident of Bayt Jala. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit encountered a group of masked men who were trying to incite the population to engage in violence. The soldiers ordered the young men to halt, but when they refused, shot in the air and then at their feet. One of the youths was hurt and later died of his wounds.

HAMAS Calls General Strike

TA1410185889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Excerpt] There was a general strike today in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It was called by the Islamic Resistance Movement, HAMAS, to protest conditions in Israeli prisons. The army this afternoon placed curfews on two villages in the Ramallah area, Qibya and Kafr Malik. In the village of Qibya, soldiers came upon a demonstration by 20 youths. They arrested eight of them after injuring three with rubber bullets. Qibya residents today were marking the anniversary of the start of the Israeli army's activities in the village in the 1950's, when many residents were killed.

In Kafr Malik, soldiers dispersed a march and also imposed a curfew. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 14 October, in a similar report, adds: "Army sources have reported that journalists and cameramen invited by the locals were in the village at that time. They left after the soldiers arrived."] [passage omitted]

Update on 13, 14 Oct Incidents

TA1510113089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Oct 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Residents of Bayt Sira, near Ramallah, reported that a villager killed on Wednesday night had been shot by a settler whose car was stoned. Military sources said that troops had not been at the scene, and that the police were investigating. [passage omitted]

At Bayt Sahur, near Bethlehem, fresh tax-raids and several arrests were reported on Friday, as the Civil Administration continued its efforts to crush a tax-revolt. Palestinians said tax officials confiscated household goods and merchandise in at least 16 homes and shops.

In the past week, the authorities have begun detaining townspeople who have not paid their taxes, and summoning others to military headquarters for questioning. Residents reported about 30 persons detained.

In an effort to end the impasse over tax-payment, the Civil Administration has proposed that townspeople pay their debts in installments. Though several have paid, the overwhelming majority continue to defy the authorities.

In scattered clashes over the weekend in the Gaza Strip, 20 people were reported wounded, including a 13-year-old boy seriously wounded in the head. Clashes continued for hours at the al-Shati' refugee camp in defiance of a curfew. [passage omitted]

[Quoting Palestinian sources, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 15 October, in a report by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er on page 2, reports on additional casualties in the West Bank: A 23-year-old man was wounded by a plastic bullet in the Balatah refugee camp; a 14-year-old girl from Salfit was taken to al-Itihad Hospital; and an 18 year old was hit by a live bullet in Qalqilyah. HA'ARETZ adds that "initiated operations were carried out in two villages in the Tulkarm District and the army closed down four schools in the Tulkarm refugee camp for a month."

The same paper, in a report by Yizhar Be'er on page 3, quotes allegations by the Ramallah-based al-Haq human rights organization that one of its workers was arrested by the security forces last week and "badly beaten until he lost consciousness." He was hospitalized at Jerusalem's Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital, where he was connected to a respirator because of breathing problems. In response, official military sources confirm the man's arrest, but argue that "reasonable force was used because the man resisted arrest. After he claimed that he was not feeling well, he was taken to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. He was discharged the next day and placed in custody in the al-Zahiriyah detention camp, after being found physically fit to be kept under arrest."]

Qalqilyah Curfew Lifted

TA1510052889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] An 18-year-old masked activist was shot by army troops in Hebron as he was painting slogans in support of the Palestinian uprising. Hebron residents told reporter Arye Gus that the activist was shot by soldiers who arrived in a private vehicle with Hebron license plates. Other activists snatched the body and buried it. Military sources deny knowing anything about the incident and say they are continuing to investigate. They said that soldiers clashed with a group of masked activists. One of the Arabs threw an explosive and began to run. The soldiers then fired and wounded the activist in the leg.

The curfew on Qalqilyah imposed on Friday was lifted this morning.

An Israeli citizen intentionally struck by an Arab driver in the Gaza Strip Friday has had both of his legs amputated. He is in intensive care in Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. Doctors say his condition is serious but stable.

Another car was torched in East Jerusalem last night. This one was a transport vehicle owned by a Jewish contractor being used by an Arab driver. It was completely gutted.

In the Kennedy Forest near the Judaean village of Battir, 30 dunams were set ablaze last night. Officials of the Jewish National Fund said it appears the forest was torched in two areas. Fire fighters put out the blaze shortly before midnight.

Worker Killed by Masked Men

TA1510121489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] 'Abd al-Rabbuh Abu-'Amri, 24, was murdered in Rafah this morning. He was among a group of Rafah municipal workers who were attacked by masked men, our correspondent Arye Gus reports.

Tax Revolt Continues

TA1610091089

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 16 October, in a report on pages 1 and 8 by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela', reports that "three-year-old 'Attiya al-Fityani from the al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza, who was wounded last Thursday, died last night at the Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. Official military sources said last night that the army was still investigating the circumstances of the boy's death." The report adds that the army had originally said that there were no shooting incidents in the area where the boy was hurt.

THE POST also quotes residents as saying that "in Janin, four masked youths stabbed Mahmud Bakri, 45, a former policeman reputed to be an informer for the security services. Bakri was hospitalized in fair condition. At Bayt Sahur, where the Civil Administration is seizing goods to break a tax-revolt, residents reported fresh property-confiscations at 12 homes and shops." More than $1 million worth of items has been seized at Bayt Sahur since the confiscations began more than 3 weeks ago. The Defense Ministry has dropped its original plans to auction off the goods, the report says.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 16 October, in a report on page 2 by Yizhar Be'er, says that Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur announced yesterday that he has "banned hospitals from confiscating identification cards belonging to inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to assure payment for medical care. In the past, residents had complained that Israeli hospitals in which they were treated took away their identification cards until they paid. If they could not pay, the inhabitants were dismissed from the hospital without their identification cards, which meant almost immediate arrest by the security services."

Prime Minister Ibn-Shakir Returns From Italy

JN1710081689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir returned to Amman last night after accompanying His Majesty King Husayn on his recent official visit to Italy. His excellency participated in the talks which his majesty held with senior Italian officials. The talks dealt with developments of the current situation in the Middle East and Italian-Jordanian relations and means of bolstering them. His excellency was welcomed upon arrival by the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the minister of state for Cabinet affairs, the public security director, and the director of the prime minister's office.

Al-Qasim Discusses Regional Issues, U.S. Role

JN1310181489 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Oct 89 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim by Hisham Milhim in New York; date not given]

[Text] [Milhim] In your UN speech you said that the Israeli stance on the Egyptian 10 points is a true test of Israel's desire for peace. Israel declared its rejection of the 10 points. How long will this policy continue—the policy, that is, of the Arabs making political concessions while Israel becomes more rigid?

[Al-Qasim] This is a very important decision. The impression prevalent in the United Nations, Washington, and Europe is that an important segment of the Israeli Government accepts the Egyptian 10 points. These points contained many Arab and American positions in the first place. Some were even Israeli because the [Israeli] Labor Party had approved them. These points are in fact the basic minimum for starting a dialogue to break the deadlock and build confidence. After that, one can agree on the bases for proceeding to the stage of elections in the occupied Arab territories, which must be part of a comprehensive peace process.

Jordan's viewpoint is like that of other Arab countries: that the concept of elections is the first demand of all peoples in the world, and is especially necessary for giving the Palestinian people in the occupied territories the opportunity to practice this political right. We consider this right to be among their other political rights within the concept of self-determination.

When Yitzhaq Shamir proposed his four points, later known as the Shamir plan for elections in the occupied territories, we held talks with our Arab brothers and the PLO. We arrived at a unified position in Casablanca. The understanding there was to avoid giving the false impression to any party that the Arabs do not wish to hold elections in the occupied territories. On the contrary, we support the idea of elections in the occupied Arab territories, as long as these elections are conducted in the proper atmosphere that guarantees the citizen his right to vote free from violence, control, or continuous terror.

Therefore, there was an opportunity to propose the internationally approved concept, whether under the auspices of the United Nations, which has much experience in holding such elections within the concept of self-determination—Namibia is a good example—or with the help of the European countries because of their democratic tradition. They are aware of the depth and importance of the concept of elections in the occupied territories.

We have always affirmed that the Arabs and PLO should agree to elections in an internationally accepted political and natural context. This includes the presence of someone to supervise elections—an internationally credible body given the right to supervise and observe. At the same time, the rifle should be moved away from the ballot boxes so that the Palestinian can express his thoughts and how he wants to make his economic, political, and social future a reality. This is one of the basic tenets of self-determination.

We were surprised by the Israeli decision. It also shows that when Israel proposed the four election points, it was not making a serious and positive contribution to the peace process in the first place for the benefit of the whole region. Unfortunately, this will frustrate our hopes and aspirations. There must also be, however, a continuation of work, long-term self-reliance, and continued strategic efforts based on the complete and just political solution within the concept agreed on by the Arabs, whether at the Amman summit of 1987, or after that. This concept maintains that an international conference is the most appropriate venue for direct negotiations leading to a comprehensive solution between the various Arab parties concerned with the struggle on the one hand, and Israel on the other.

[Milhim] Does this mean that the issue of elections will be shelved and that there will be a return to concentration on the international conference?

[Al-Qasim] It has become clearer to the influential states that Israel is unmistakably obstructing the minimum requirements for initiating a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. As is well-known—and as I said in my speech—the 10 points are a test designed to make Israel articulate its position toward peace. Israel's recent decision has confirmed that Israel, under its current political arrangements, is fighting against the principle of peace. The 10 points concern procedural issues and modalities. The only substantial issues contained in the 10 points concern the principle of trading land for peace, the final solution, and the political rights of the Palestinians engendered by the election process. In this clear light, we hope that the world will not hesitate to shoulder its responsibilities. The influential states must display more seriousness and play a more effective role, considering the need to help convince Israel, or some members of the

Israeli Government, of the need to respect international legitimacy to help achieve peace throughout the region. Hence, these influential states must continue to try to make Israel accept the peace option.

[Milhim] You are speaking about the influential states. You are implicitly referring to the United States, which has supported Shamir's election plan and played a role in developing the Egyptian 10 points. Can we realistically expect a reassessment by the United States of its position toward Israel? And, what would be the position of the "Arab moderate states," including Jordan, which supported the Egyptian proposals—particularly after the moderate positions adopted by the PLO during the past 10 months—if the United States fails to make this reassessment?

[AL-Qasim] For political and moral reasons, the United States must play a principal role in achieving a comprehensive solution. We believe that the powers of persuasion at the disposal of the United States are stronger than those of other states. Now that the fifth round in the U.S-Palestinian dialogue has been launched, I believe that the U.S. Administration has a clearer understanding of the extent of the PLO's real commitment to finding the desired solution. If these positive [Palestinian] intentions have helped the United States reach such a conclusion, then the United States must work to help the other side come to the same conclusion, because the Israeli-Palestinian dispute is at the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict. If the dialogue does not take this into account, the peace desired by Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians will not come into being.

[Milhim] To what extent have the economic crisis in Jordan, the April riots, and the ensuing resignations affected Jordan's regional standing and its foreign policy?

[Al-Qasim] Out of frankness and honesty in dealing with the Arab brothers, we hastened to tell our brothers about what happened and the reasons for the incidents. There was a good understanding and a favorable response by the brothers who immediately made moves to support and help Jordan. The fraternal states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Morocco hastened to help Jordan. This is something that we value and appreciate highly.

[Milhim] One of the reasons behind this question is that Israel has made claims on Jordan and its future, such as proposing an alternate homeland for the Palestinians. How do these proposals reflect on Jordan in the wake of the recent incidents?

[Al-Qasim] There are certain parties in Israel that do not want to face facts in the region. They are trying to say that Jordan has become weak. This is an attempt to spread confusion and instability in Jordan. Jordan has witnessed such incidents in the past. For example, when the Jordanian dinar was devalued, it became clear that one of the things that had effectively contributed to this was that the Israeli exchangers were selling the Jordanian currency they collected from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in Zurich, and from Zurich it went to the Gulf. Zurich was a way station, just as Cyprus was.

At the same time there were continuous rumors to the effect that the value of the Jordanian dinar would equal one dollar. Of course, this raised the concern of the citizens in the occupied territories that the dinar would suffer like other currencies in the region. However, we have overcome this episode. We have experienced the campaign of distortion against Jordan for decades. Nevertheless, focusing on this campaign at a certain stage attracts people's attention as if it were something new. This is a continuous state of affairs that is characterized by exaggerating a crisis at certain stages and times to give the impression that Jordan is in danger.

Of course, there are some elements in Israel that claim that as long as there are Palestinians in Jordan, there is no need to discuss the principle of land for peace. We did not pay attention to this claim in Jordan. Israel attempts to spread such rumors. In his recent book "The Warrior," Ari'el Sharon clearly says that Israel should have contributed to Palestinian attempts to control Jordan in the past, because this could have turned the conflict into an issue that has nothing to do with the principle of land for peace. We are confident that the Palestinian, wherever he may be, is still looking ahead, because he feels psychologically, morally, and politically committed to his rights and to the land of his grandfathers in which to exercise his political rights.

[Milhim] During his stay in Washington, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan spoke with concern about the issue of pressures exerted on Jordan. He expressed his concern particularly to the Congress, and even to the U.S. news media. It also was noted that in recent years the U.S. Government has begun to reduce its military and economic aid to Jordan, as if Jordan's role in the region has become less important than it was in the past for the United States.

[Al-Qasim] At the end of the 1970's, there was an interpretation that Jordan should play a specific role. Because Jordan is aware of the seriousness and the sensitivity of the situation in the region, it has always been the first to benefit from any opportunity that would restore Arab rights to their owners. We had differences with President Carter's administration regarding the attempt to drag Jordan into the political process which resulted from the signing of the Camp David accords.

We hope that there will be an opportunity for Jordan to support a true approach to peace. Basically, peace should be achieved between the Palestinians and the Israelis. As a result of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Jordan lost part of its territory. This also applies to Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. Therefore, the basis for peace between the Palestinians and Israelis is not isolated from the other parties. This is why we urge the comprehensiveness of the solution. We did not see this emphasis in the amateurish political behavior that we witnessed in the late

seventies. This is why Jordan could not participate in marginal solutions that ignore the roots of the cause.

Later, Jordan also was exposed to pressures. However, we have overcome these attempts. During later contacts between the Jordanian leadership and former President Jimmy Carter, the former U.S. president admitted that there were some interpretations whose background and dimensions he did not realize. We cannot settle this cause on behalf of the Palestinians. Neither Egypt, nor Syria, or even all of us. The Palestinians, through the PLO, will negotiate with the Israelis on a Palestinian-Israeli level.

[Milhim] During your meetings in Washington, did you get the distinct feeling that there is an opinion that since Jordan is going through a difficult time, one can put pressure on it to take positions it does not want to take?

[Al-Qasim] During our time in Washington, we did not feel any tangible presence of a concept that Jordan is in a weak, exploitable position. We do not believe that we are in a weak position. On the contrary, we believe that our relations with our Arab brothers are currently at their best. The disengagement of ties has contributed greatly toward creating a good, positive atmosphere based on trust and honesty in relations, moving us away from any attempts to raise doubts about Jordan, as, unfortunately, was the case in the past.

Of course, the Zionists can still influence some important circles in the United States, one of which is Congress. They are perfectly aware of the fact that Jordan used to depend totally on the West for its armament. As a result of a congressional decision, some changes were made to prevent the sale of any arms to Jordan, unless Jordan entered into negotiations with Israel, and those negotiations led to some results. The basic party concerned in the dispute with Israel is the PLO, which has announced its readiness to discuss and negotiate with Israel. Israel wants its neighbors to be more radical, not more moderate, because it can then exploit such a situation in the United States to get strategic and economic support.

[Milhim] Jordan says that it supports the efforts of the Arab League to solve the Lebanese dispute. Nevertheless, some Lebanese and Arab parties bear a grudge against Jordan because of its role in allowing Iraqi arms to pass through its territory and via al-'Aqabah port to General 'Awn's forces. Can you explain this role?

[Al-Qasim] Ever since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war in 1980, after the Iranian aggression on Iraq, al-'Aqabah was considered an Iraqi port where all facilities and priorities were devoted to Iraq's needs. Iraq imported its machinery and foodstuffs over a period of many years. At the same time, for many years Iraq distributed, through Jordan, such machinery for maintenance abroad or as donations to other Arab countries. We haven't faced any problems in this field so far. The road between al-'Aqabah and Iraq saw many trucks carrying these goods travelling to and from Iraq. When we look at Lebanon, we do not do so from the perspective of how to support one side against another. Our concern is to save Lebanon based on our position and pan-Arab responsibility. From this perspective, helping and saving Lebanon from its terrible state is a Jordanian demand. If we succeed in doing this, we will have helped others and ourselves.

[Milhim] Does this mean that the Iraqi arms shipments travelled through Jordan on their way to Lebanon without Jordan's knowledge?

[Al-Qasim] As I have already said, in the past—in the mid-eighties—there were some arms, whose source was Iraq, that left via al-'Aqabah, but were not sent to Lebanon. We abided by the agreement of making al-'Aqabah port the equivalent of Basra port. Nobody asked us to send this cargo to the CSSR, or that load to Lebanon, Sudan, or Egypt. We know that many Arab countries received military aid from Iraq. Our brothers in Iraq provided Jordan with some weapons as spoils of war. The same goes for other Arab countries. Jordan, however, can only be a positive factor in any attempt at detente in Lebanon. I believe that the claim that allowing this or that load to pass through Jordan has worsened the situation in Lebanon is debatable. Through our work in the six-member committee before and after lifting the siege in Lebanon, we know that there are many sides of every color and creed exporting weapons to Lebanon. More important than all this is the united Arab commitment working honestly to save Lebanon.

[Milhim] This question is being raised because of Jordan's relations with Iraq and Syria. It also is linked to Jordan's previous attempts to mediate between Damascus and Baghdad, and to the possibility of creating tension between Amman and Damascus because of the situation in Lebanon.

[Al-Qasim] It is our wish that this would not be the case. As an Arab, it pains me to see an Israeli, and particularly an Iranian presence at this stage, in an Arab country such as Lebanon. We must not remain silent about this Iranian invasion, which must be resisted whether it comes directly through the Iraqi borders, or through other opportunities provided to Iran [to interfere] in another sisterly country. Indeed, this Lebanese syndrome might aggravate and harm others including Jordan, Syria, and Iraq. It is a syndrome aimed at fragmenting the region. We always work toward using opportunities to improve, not aggravate, the Arab situation.

[Al-Jabiri] What is your opinion of Arab proposals for the al-Ta'if talks?

[Al-Qasim] We are optimistic, particularly to see the Arab efforts and efficiency which are determined to rescue Lebanon; and, in the Arab tripartite committee, we find such qualities. We wish for all Arab parties to work with all their capabilities to make the Arab solution succeed. For, if the Arab solution is not made available, God forbid, other parties would join the conflict in the event of the failure of the Arab solution. Furthermore,

we would see other parties dealing with forces which are not affiliated to Arab national security, eventually upsetting the Arab East situation.

[Milhim] There is Arab concern about the continuing stalemate in the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, as well as a concern that the no-war-no-peace situation could turn into a truce that could deteriorate at any moment. You expressed this concern in your speech at the United Nations. Do you expect the new efforts being made by the United Nations to break this stalemate?

[Al-Qasim] There must be a new basic situation beginning to emerge as a result of the new situation in Iran. There are conspicuous assurances from the Arab side that Iraq does not have any desire for Iranian territory. However, Iraq, along with the Arab countries and international law, confirms the necessity of regaining its basic rights which are based on international legitimacy, history, and law. Iraq does not need 1,000 or 2,000 square km to annex to its territories. Fortunately, Iraq is unique when compared with other Arab countries in resources, population, and other aspects.

What we wish to see is a shift from the no-war-no-peace situation to a state of peace. This state is in the long run a state of mind. As we say in our situation with Israel, controlling the occupied territories can no longer be used as a pretext for self-defense at a time of the proliferation of missiles. Accordingly, we are speaking about a state of mind, and the imperative aspiration for co-existence between Iran and the Arab countries. This means abandoning expansionist ambitions. In the aftermath of the World War II, particularly in the 1960's and 1970's, there were Iranian efforts to impose sovereignty on the Arabs; namely through its claims over Bahrain, and occupying the islands.

As Iraq has voiced good intentions and discharged five military divisions as an indication of peaceful intent, we find Iran still trying to obtain offensive weapons. What is required is to change this state of mind and convince Iran of the advantages of peace—to it as well as to the Arabs.

Fadlallah Comments on Al-Ta'if Proceedings

NC1410091589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Commenting on the al-Ta'if meetings, Ayatollah Sayyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the al-Ta'if meetings are merely a matter of trying to revive the sectarian system. He pointed out that the issue of reform, rather than politics, is the only unacceptable thing for political Maronism, which is using the issues of withdrawals and sovereignty as an excuse.

His eminence expressed surprise that Christian deputies should demand a fixed date and a scheduled program for the Syrian withdrawal when they refuse to fix a specific date for abolishing political sectarianism and making concessions regarding the president's prerogatives.

In another development, Ayatollah Fadlallah has said: There will not be security tremors or partition because international conditions do not allow for either, even if the al-Ta'if meetings fail. He noted that these meetings do not respond to the people's aspirations. Instead, he added, they are intended to revive previous political and security circumstances, without trying to find a fundamental solution to the Lebanese problem.

His eminence stressed that if political sectarianism is not abolished now, it will not be abolished at any other time.

Delivers Friday Sermon

NC1710140989 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 16 Oct 89 p 8

["Text" of Friday sermon by Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah delivered at the Imam al-Rida mosque in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Many people are talking about the need to confront the al-Ta'if meeting. Do the deputies represent the people or not? Do the warlords represent the people or not? Does the civilian government or the military government represent the people? There is a great deal of argument and skepticism about any agreement that may be concluded.

We call for a popular referendum on any plan, be it formulated by the tripartite committee, the deputies, or the national movement. We must put any plan to the people to determine their views, because the people are now politically conscious and know the facts. Certain parties may be able to control some people, but they cannot control all people.

Thus we can ask the people through a referendum about the political root of the problem and whether it lies with political Maronism or anywhere else. A referendum will show if the president's powers should be maintained or diminished. Everyone assumes that the president should be a Maronite and that his powers should remain undiminished. But who says we will agree that a president should be a Maronite? We are not putting forward our own plan, but we are calling for asking the people to determine what they want and what political thesis they accept as the holding of a referendum is a civilized method. Why are they talking about the Christians' fear and not about the Muslims' fear?

If they want real peace for Lebanon so that our sons may live in a state free from the possibility of war every decade, we must resolve the roots of the problem by abolishing segregation among the Lebanese. We believe that those who are putting pressure on their people cannot formulate a solution to the problem of the Lebanese people because they rule through dictatorship. We do not expect any good from all those working to resolve the Lebanese problem, because they seek to serve not the people but their enemies by eliminating all their problems and worries. We want the people to live in peace but not in ignorance. A free future can only be created by Lebanese who live up to the cause of freedom and justice as a basic issue for the present and the future. Praise be to God Almighty.

National Front Issues Statement on Al-Ta'if

NC1610172089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The National Front held a meeting today at the office of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri. All the members of the National Front were present. After reviewing the current situation in Lebanon and the al-Ta'if meetings held under the auspices of the tripartite Arab committee, the conferees issued the following statement:

1. Out of its concern for the honorable Arab initiative, to which it has responded positively right from the start, the National Front calls on the tripartite committee not to permit any blackmail or intimidation by the isolationist party. This party is seeking to abort the present opportunity to achieve inter-Lebanese reconciliation on nationalist and reformative grounds that could end the war and establish a society based on justice and equality.

2. The nationalist forces, which have made and continue to make great sacrifices to save the Lebanese people from the sectarian regime, cannot and will not accept any solution that does not envisage an immediate and total abolition of this regime. These forces remind everyone that they have not waged the battle to enable one sect to triumph over another, but to enable the Lebanese people to triumph over the cancer of sectarianism and set up a democratic society free of any privileged sect or faction.

3. The National Front stresses and insists that the Chamber of Deputies must be expanded to include not less than 128 deputies. The chamber may then be injected with the fresh and nationalist blood of the people resisting Israel in the South and in western al-Biqa' as well as those resisting the sectarian regime and military hegemony in Beirut, the mountain area, the Southern Suburb, the North, al-Biqa', and throughout Lebanon.

4. In order for any reforms to be effective, the military establishment, which has been used to impose isolationist hegemony and oppression over the people in Lebanon and has never safeguarded sovereignty in the face of Israeli aggressions, must be rebuilt on sound ,nationalist, and pan-Arab foundations. Furthermore, this establishment must not be under the command of an individual, whoever that individual may be. Instead, authority must rest with the Cabinet.

5. The National Front reminds the deputies who are meeting in al-Ta'if that sovereignty can be achieved by liberating the South and western al-Biqa' from the Israeli occupation. The National Front deems any withdrawal, even if partial, by the Syrian Arab Army before the liberation, the rehabilitation of the Lebanese Army, and the introduction of reforms as a blow to Lebanese national sovereignty and to the core of the Casablanca summit resolutions. From this premise, the Nationl Front insists that the clause concerning sovereignty stipulated in the Arab document be not subject to any discussion, since this matter should be the concern of a national reconciliation government alone.

6.The National Front denounces the disregard shown by their excellencies the deputies of the struggle of the national resistance in the South and the need to back it up, particularly since the resistance has proved to be the only road toward achieving true sovereignty and regaining Lebanese and Arab dignity.

The National Front hopes that the honorable deputies meeting in al-Ta'if will not deviate from the abovementioned clauses, and calls on them not to do so. The National Front considers any violation of these principles or any attempt to reproduce a sectarian regime in Lebanon as an act of treason toward the blood of the martyrs and an act of enslavement of the country and the people, which it has not permitted and will not permit.

'Awn: 'Conspiracy' for Syria To Absorb Lebanon

NC1710083489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stated that it has become clear that there is a conspiracy and that no one wants to make decisions on the withdrawal issue, the mission of the Syrian forces, their operational area, or the duration of their presence. He added that this means the end of Lebanese sovereignty. In an interview with the French Catholic Notre Dame radio, Gen 'Awn added that the persistent vagueness in the Arab plan gives Syria free reign to absorb Lebanon after establishing control over it.

Commenting on a possible visit by His Holiness Pope John Paul II to Lebanon, Gen 'Awn said that such a visit would be historic.

ICRC Crisis Meeting on Death Threat in Lebanon

LD1710135689 Bern International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The All-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] says it is studying a report that a Shiite Muslim extremist group, the Islamic Jihad, threatened to kill two Swiss ICRC workers in Lebanon. An ICRC spokesman said in Geneva that the committee's crisis panel is meeting to consider all the possible consequences of the threat. [passage omitted]

PLO Military Parade in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp

NC1610181289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The PLO organized a military parade at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp today. Units from the PLO police as well as commando units riding trucks equipped with antiaircraft batteries and 106-mm guns took part in the parade, which was held to mark the funeral of Zayd Wahbi, a physician in the Palestinian Red Cross, who was gunned down in Sidon last Wednesday.

Palestinians Clash in Camp

NC1710081389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tension is running high at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon following clashes last night among Palestinian organizations which involved the use of machineguns and rockets. The clashes continued until early this morning and resulted in several casualties. One person, whose name has not yet been announced, was killed.

Former Fatah Official Killed

NC1710091589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Radio Free Lebanon has learned that gunmen assassinated Abu-Mahir al-Sa'di [as heard], a former official of the pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement, near al-Amirikan circle at the entrance of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon last night. A person accompanying Al-Sa'di was injured in the attack and taken to the Sa'd Sayil Hospital in 'Ayn al-Hulwah.

According to reports, a state of maximum alert has been declared in Palestinian ranks. Rockets and small arms were fired into the air during the night to denounce the assassination.

Abu-Nidal Group Blamed

NC1710085489 Paris AFP in English 0822 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 17 (AFP)—A Palestinian health worker with the PLO's mainstream Fatah group has been shot dead outside a refugee camp in southern Lebanon, security sources said Tuesday.

Munir Sa'adam, who worked for the Palestinian Red Cross, was gunned down late Monday from a passing car as he waited in an ambulance at the entrance of the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, near Sidon, the sources said. He died on the spot. The ambulance driver was wounded. He was the second Palestinian Red Cross worker loyal to Fatah to have been murdered at the camp in a week. 'Ali Hashim, a doctor at a camp hospital, was gunned down from a passing car, almost in the same spot, on October 10.

The PLO Sunday implicity accused Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), a group hostile to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, of killing Dr Hashim and other Palestinians and of kidnapping Palestinians and westerners. The PLO statement, in a tract distributed at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah refugee camps in the Sidon area, did not mention the FRC by name but referred exclusively to operations the group alone has claimed.

Two Swiss workers with the International Committee of the Red Cross were kidnapped near 'Ayn al-Hulwah on October 6. No group has claimed responsibility for the abductions.

Druze Radio on Army Firing at Nationalist Posts

NC1610185889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah gangs continued their violations today. These gangs directed heavy bursts of sniper fire against nationalist positions in (Kayfun) town and the Ra's al-Jabal axis in 'Alayh this afternoon. These positions were also targeted by antiaircraft fire this morning.

Four Persons Injured by Rocket in Tripoli

NC1610130489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] A security source reported that four persons were injured today when a rocket was fired at the premises of the al-Turuq al-Hadithah Company in (Kafr Hbur) in Tripoli district. The source added that an Al-Amyuni family member fired the rocket after the company's owner refused to employ him. Those injured include Basil Nasif, Fadi Sarhani, As'ad Sarhani, and Fayid Bulus, who is seriously injured.

The owner, Saffuh Karami, said that he has informed all the concerned security organs about the incident. An investigation is under way.

Resistance Fighters Detonate Charge in South

NC1610192789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpt] National resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge near an agent Lahd army patrol on the Kawkaba-Burghuz road today, damaging an armored vehicle and injuring two soldiers. A joint force of the Israeli occupation army and the agent Lahd army immediately carried out a wide-scale raking operation in the Kawkaba, Burghuz, al-Litani river basin, and (Suq al-Khan) areas, directing intensive machinegun fire against the targets.

According to reports from Marj 'Uyun, a clash took place last night in Wadi al-Saluqi. A joint force of the agent Lahd militia and enemy troops laid an ambush for a resistance group which had infiltrated into the area. The fighting lasted for 15 minutes. The occupation forces subsequently searched the area for the resistance fighters. [passage omitted]

Explosions Reported in Sidon, Policeman Injured

NC1710093989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 OCT 89

[Text] An explosion occurred on the seventh floor of the Qasim al-Dayr building in Sidon at approximately 0900 this morning. A member of the security police of the Nasirite Popular Organization was wounded.

Another explosion, which caused only property damage, occurred last night in a minivan which was used as a cafe and parked along the corniche.

Talas Addresses Air Force on Lebanon, Loyalty

JN1610211089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, the Air Force and Air Defense celebrated their 43rd anniversary today. General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, represented the president in patronizing the celebrations. The Air Force and Air Defense headquarters held a major celebration at one of our air bases. [passage omitted]

On behalf of the patron of the celebrations, General Mustafa Talas delivered a speech to the fighters. He started out by conveying President Hafiz al-Asad's congratulations on the anniversary of the Air Force and Air Defense and his wishes for their success in their national duties. He added that the fact that the Air Force and Air Defense celebrations coincided with the celebrations of our masses and Armed Forces on the 16th anniversary of the October liberation war warrants commitment and loyalty to the October liberation, steadfastness of spirit, and the affirmation to continue the struggle until we achieve our goals of victory and liberty.

The general said that the most important development in the progress of building and developing the Air Force and Air Defense through the progress of the exalted corrective movement, led by struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, has been to crown this development by incorporating modern planes, developing missile weapons, and training the leading and technical cadres to a very high level.

The general, representing the commander in chief, explained the position on Lebanon. He affirmed that the irresponsible statements and haphazard threats fired off by 'Awn at this stage are meant to justify the continuation of his war of destruction against the Lebanese people. The general said 'Awn's threats are designed to reject the solutions that could save the country from its crisis, and intended to hamper the implementation of developments in al-Ta'if. The general also stated that the major obstacle lies in those who control the leading figures in East Beirut and those supporting them in Israel and Baghdad, who, acting out of political and pragmatic motives, insist on impossible conditions in order to evade the duty of commitment to the national accord. The general said these moves are meant to keep the Lebanese arena a fertile playground for fighting and control the Lebanese through blackmail and threats.

The general continued his speech by reaffirming that Al-Asad's Syria will remain by the side of Lebanon, providing it with the elements of strength and supporting its national and pan-Arab stands because Syria and Lebanon have a common history, geography, destiny, and purpose. As for the gamblers—the high-priests of privilege and personal interests who create new concepts and expressions every day to strengthen deception and impose partition, and who talk about sovereignty and freedom but practice division and engender conflict among brothers and family members, while blinding themselves to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon—are deluding themselves and their gamble will fail. They will get their harsh punishment on the day when the people dump them into the trash can of history.

General Mustafa Talas, the commander in chief's representative, discussed the heroic battles fought by our pilots in defense of the nation's honor and pride. He affirmed that these acts of heroism robbed the enemies of their sleep wherever they were. They worked in the pitch dark, like blind bats, to find an agent and traitor selling his conscience at the cheapest of prices. They found their lost soul in the traitor Bassam al-'Adl, who broke his military oath and betrayed his nation and homeland by running away in his plane to one of their bases. Their aim is, of course, to influence and affect our people and Armed Forces psychologically and morally. However, their goal has collapsed before the spirit of pride and dignity experienced by Al-Asad's Syria and its valiant Armed Forces.

The general said that the fall of one traitor means nothing in the march of a country which is destined to be the leader of the Arab nation in confronting aggression, whatever its source.

Concluding his speech, the general called on the fighters in the Air Force and Air Defense to mobilize their potential and determination and to be inspired by the honest pan-Arab course espoused by the exemplary leader Hafiz al-Asad in his triumphant march. He also asked the fighters to make efforts to protect their equipment and arms and to raise their fighting preparadeness to the its highest levels in preparation for the day of victory and liberation. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR Details Council of Ministers Session

LD1510063689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 14, BAKHTAR—The general periodical session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan presided over by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers was held in the headquarters of that council here today, a BAKHTAR correspondent reported. The session extensively assessed implementation of the socio-economic development plan and state budget for the first six months of the current year (started March 20, 1989).

In the session it was pointed out that realisation of the socio-economic growth and state budget during the said period are assessed under such a condition that war against the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) is intensified. During the session adequate and specific instructions were issued to ministries and concerned departments as well.

It was disclosed in the session that an amount of 500 million afghanis was spent for the construction of blindages, security posts and security headquarters in the country. Eight major state constructional units, powerful technical means and human forces took part in the construction of them. Also, 25 new projects at a cost of one billion afghanis are included in the state investment development plan for the current year.

In the session it was stressed that despite the escalation of intervention in the internal affairs of the RA from outside and existence of a series of problems and difficulties, specific objective successes are achieved in the implementation of the said plan.

The value of industrial products in the state, private and mixed sectors during that period exceeds to 8.4 billion afghanis. Also, an amount of over 42 thousand tonnes of cement, 8.72 million meters of cotton cloths and 75 thousand meters of woolen cloths were produced. In the plastic foot wear, carpets, raisins, meat products, bread, steam cooking pots and cartons, private sector of the economy, production remarkable increments are made.

Similarly, 54 chemical, metallurgy, food products and light industries, at an initial capital of 1.7 billion afghanis and final capital of 2.9 billion afghanis, were approved by the Permanent Executive Commission of the Council of Ministers. Ten new projects in the private sector of the Afghan economy have started production. Also, construction work of 50 projects included in the investment and basic constructional plan are partly or completely completed and have come under utilisation. An amount of 51.8 thousand tonnes of chemical fertilisers, amount of 5.30 thousand tonnes of cotton seed and 4.2 tonnes of beetroot seed were distributed to the farmers during the period. Since the start of the spring cultivation campaign until the end of the second quarter of the current year, different kinds of agricultural medicines were put at the disposal of the farmers in the country. Also, an amount of 6.75 million doses of different vaccines for animals were put at the disposal of the farmers.

During the first six months of the year 2.8 million tonnes of comodities were transported by the state, private and mixed sectors vehicles throughout the country. An amount of 250 thousand tonnes of dried fruits and petroleum were transported by the Ministries of Transport and Commerce to the markets and institutions in the same period as well. Six thousand tonnes cargo showing 61 percent implementation and growth of 21 percent than the figures available for the first 6 months of last year were transferred inside and outside the country by the Ariana Afghan Airlines.

In today's session achievements of the Control and Inspection Department of the Council of Ministers and report on the works of the Central Statistics Office relating to the collection and analysation of the statistical data for the period were also assessed. Decisions on 17 legislative documents presented by the Ministry of Justice were assessed and necessary decisions adopted.

Sultan Husayn, minister of planning, Bashir Baghlani, minister of Justice, Shah Mahmud, first deputy minister for finance, Muhammad Sharif Sharifi, chairman of the Control and Inspection Department of the Council of Ministers and Mohayuddin Shahbaz, chairman of the Central Statistics Office presented their reports in the session.

At the end of the session Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers assessed implementation of the socio-economic development plan and state budget for the first 6 months of the year. He pinpointed shortcomings and inadequacies in the works of the ministries, state departments and institutions observed in their achievements.

Afghan Defector Says Soviet Pilots Aiding Kabul

BK1610152189 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Oct 89 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 5—Major Jalaluddin, a pilot of Kabul regime who after landing his MiG-21 fighter aircraft at Peshawar Airport defected to Pakistan and sought asylum on Sept. 29 last has said that Soviet pilots are still busy in operations in Afghanistan.

They fly the Soviet marked planes and train Afghan pilots. The defected Afghan pilot who was produced before newsmen at a press conference addressed by Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, chief of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) here Thursday evening further said that the morale of the regime Air Force is very low. In fact 90 per cent pilots of the Airforce are not committed and loyal to the regime. They are looking for an opportunity to defect. That was why they are being given task of flying near Soviet borders, he added.

Patrolling and operations in border areas near Pakistan and Iran is being done by 10 per cent of those regime pilots who are committed to the puppet communist regime, he maintained.

Defected pilot further said that the families of Air Force pilots are under strict surveillance of "KHAD" agents in Afghanistan. They are facing acute shortage of pilots and there are no more pilots to serve the regime, he continued.

To a question, he said the Soviet Union deployed its best pilots in Afghanistan. They are operating from Mazar to Qandahar and from Bagram to Kabul. The regime pilots are busy in ground operations mainly because mujahidin have no airforce to take part in the air combats, against them, he added.

Jalaluddin said Jalalabad Airport where fighting has been going on has been totally damaged and is not fit for operational purposes. Only helicopters are landing in Jalalabad which require no runway for landing, he argued.

The defected pilot said that regime airforce is mostly hitting civilian population and have even killed more people than those by the mujahidin's attacks.

Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, the NIFA chief said that the Afghan warplanes which have landed in Pakistan during past ten years will be utilised by mujahidin in their operations against the Kabul regime after the approval by the Afghan Interim Government (AIG). These planes will then have the marking of "AIG" insignia, he added.

Mujahidin Launch Missile Attack on Kabul

BK1510153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have destroyed an ammunition depot in a missile attack on Kabul. The mujahidin continue to block the traffic on Jalalabad-Sarowbi highway as the highway is still in their control. The mujahidin repulsed an attack by Kabul regime troops in (Abhesham Tuhri) and destroyed a military vehicle loaded with ammunition and a tank.

According to the Afghan interim government's news agency, MIDIA, the Kabul regime troops, believing the mujahidin were present, bombed three villages in Badakhshan District as a result of which 27 citizens were killed and many houses destroyed. A mujahidin commander says that the aircraft involved in the bombing mission came from across the Soviet border.

Bangladesh

Zimbabwean President Arrives for Visit 14 Oct

MB1410075389 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0734 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Dhaka October 14 SAPA—Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe arrived in Bangladesh on Saturday [14 October] for a two day visit. ZIANA [ZIMBABWEAN INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY], Zimbabwe's news agency reported.

Mr Mugabe, who is on his first visit to this South-East Asian country, was met at Zia International Airport by Bangladesh president, Mr Hussain Muhammad Ershad; vice-president, Mr Moudud Ahmed; prime minister, Kazi Zafar Ahmed; and hundreds of women garbed in the traditional sarees. Also to meet Mr Mugabe were Zimbabwean foreign minister, Mr Nathan Shamuyarira and Zimbabwean high commissioner designate to Bangladesh, Mr Tirivafi Kangai, who is high commissioner to India.

Mr Mugabe inspected a guard of honour mounted by the Bangladesh Army, Air Force and Navy before being entertained to traditional dances by a group of youths. Thousands of Bangladeshis braved the sweltering heat to catch a glimpse of the Zimbabwean leader.

Mr Mugabe will later on Saturday visit a national monument built in memory of millions of Bangladesh is who died in the 1971 struggle against Pakistan. The monument is in Savar, about 40km north-west of Dhaka. About three million Bangladeshis died in the war after Bangladesh became the eastern wing of Pakistan, a move taken by the British who had colonised the territory for 190 years. Mr Mugabe is expected to lay a wreath at the monument.

He will then call on Vice-President Ahmed, before paying another courtesy call on President Ershad. Delegations from both countries will then hold official talks.

According to a programme released here today, Mr Mugabe will address a news conference before leaving for another state visit to Japan. After Japan, Mr Mugabe will attend the seven-day Commonwealth summit which begins in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Meets Ershad; Agreement Signed

BK1410163589 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] President Ershad and visiting Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe have reviewed the state of bilateral ties at official talks made in Dhaka this afternoon. The talks held at the International Conference Center, lasted for an hour. The two leaders discussed the (?tight) global political and economic scenario and pledged to work in close cooperation for world peace and stability. President Ershad was assisted in the talks among others by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, and commerce minister M.A. Sattar. The Zimbabwean delegation included Foreign Minister Dr Shamuyarira and Secretary to the president and the cabinet Dr (T.N.D.U. Teach).

Official sources say the two leaders decided to strengthen cooperation in different fields. They also discussed regional and international issues of common concern with particular focus on the follow-up action of the outcome of

the ninth nonaligned summit in Belgrade. The need for a greater economic interaction among the South-South nations and matters related to the North-South dialogue also figured prominently in the discussion.

Later, a trade agreement was signed between the two countries. Commerce Minister M.A. Sattar, and Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Dr Shamuyarira signed the accord on behalf of their respective governments. President Ershad and President Mugabe were present at the signing ceremony.

Holds Pre-Departure News Briefing

BK1510130389 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe left Dhaka on Sunday [15 October] for Tokyo ending the 2-day official visit to Bangladesh. President Ershad bid him farewell at Zia International Airport. The vice president, the prime minister, ministers, diplomats, and high civil and military officials were also present at the airport.

Earlier, at a news conference at the state guesthouse, the Zimbabwean president described his brief visit as very fruitful. He spoke highly of the excellent reception and hospitality accorded to him and the members of his entourage by President Ershad and his government.

Mr Robert Mugabe said his talks with President Ershad included bilateral issues and regional and international issues of common concern. A trade agreement between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe has been signed and the two countries will explore ways of enhancing and accelerating bilateral economic cooperation. He described the agreement as a significant step toward improving ties between the two countries. The two presidents also discussed the possibility of signing a general agreement covering bilateral cooperation in various fields. A draft has been prepared for setting up a joint commission between the two countries.

President Mugabe said regional and international issues which came up for discussion included the situation in southern Africa, Middle East, Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq dispute, and Cambodia. Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, he said, have identical views on these issues. They also discussed depressed international market for commodities, debt burden, lack of technical knowledge, and funds. Mr Mugabe said they discussed common approaches to solve these burning economic issues of the Third World.

Mr Robert Mugabe said his country like Bangladesh is trying to promote and encourage foreign investments. He said Bangladesh's experience in this regard will be of tremendous help to Zimbabwe.

Our diplomatic representative says after a visit to Japan, President Mugabe will go to Kuala Lumpur to attend the Commonwealth summit conference.

India

Gandhi Cancels Commonwealth Summit Trip

BK1710114889 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1130 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The central Cabinet of Ministers held its meeting in New Delhi today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Agency reports say the Cabinet recommended holding the Lok Sabha elections early, possibly the last week of November.

Soon after the Cabinet meeting, the prime minister went to the Presidential House where he held a 45-minute meeting with President Venkataraman.

The official spokesman told our correspondent that the prime minister has canceled his plan to attend the Commonwealth summit in Kuala Lumpur. The Indian delegation will be led by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao.

Calls For Elections 22 Nov

BK1710122889 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Oct 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Senior sources in India have confirmed that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has called a general election for November the 22d. Candidates have 2 weeks to register their nominations. Mr Gandhi has canceled his visit to the Commonwealth meeting in Kuala Lumpur and an official announcement on the election is expected to be made later today. The election comes 2 months before his turn of office is due to expire and it follows the defeat of the government in the upper house of Parliament last week over Mr Gandhi's proposals to give local councils more power. Mark Tully reports from Delhi:

[Begin Tully recording] Rajiv Gandhi has given the desperate opposition less than 2 weeks to end their squabbling and agree on electoral alliances and candidates. He obviously believes that will not be possible. It is generally accepted that this election will only be close run if the opposition can agree to put up only one candidate in each constituency, but they face major difficulties. The main one is the attitude of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. It believes there is a rising tide of Hindu fundamentalism and that it will be able to take advantage of that. The confident BJP is, therefore, bound to demand a large share of the seats at the price of any accommodation with other opposition parties. There is also the difficult calculation the opposition has to make as to whether an accommodation with the BJP will lose them the Muslim votes. Another reason for Rajiv Gandhi calling this snap poll is the defeat in parliament last Friday of two measures devolving power to village and town councils. Rajiv Gandhi's Congress [Party] now intends to tell the electorate that the opposition stopped from handing power to the people. One of

the main issues to the opposition will be what is known here as the Bofors scandal. The opposition maintains that the prime minister is deliberately covering up the names of people who received large commissions in a multimillion-pound deal for artillery. There were more embarrassing revelations about the commissions last week. The opposition will also be taking advantage of the rising prices. Many fear that this will be a particularly violent campaign. This is partly because of the movement by Hindu revivalists which has caused communal violence and partly because of the increasing tendency for criminals becoming involved in the Indian politics at the local level. [end recording]

Amendment Bills Defeated in Parliament

BK1410035689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The 64th and 65th constitutional amendment bills relating to panchayati raj [rural local bodies system] institutions and the nagarpalikas [urban bodies] have been defeated in the Rajya Sabha. The two bills failed to secure the requisite two-thirds majority in the first reading. The chairman, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, put the 64th and the 65th Constitution amendment bills separately to vote at the end of a 6-hour resumed debate late last night. While the 64th amendment bill received 158 votes in favor and 83 against, the other bill got 157 in favor and 83 against. The government needed 162 votes as two-thirds of the effective strength of 241 members present and voting to get the bill passed. The failure of the electronic machine led to prolonged voting process through slips individually signed and preference specified by each member present. Later, the chairman announced that the motion was not carried in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Both the bills had been passed by the Lok Sabha during the last session and were required to be approved by the Rajya Sabha to become relevant acts.

Earlier, winding up the debate, the prime minister asserted that the bills basically aimed at providing constitutional validity for democracy in panchayats and nagarpalikas and to delegate them adequate powers and finances. Mr Rajiv Gandhi maintained that the bill did not encroach upon the powers of the state governments. He said the bills provided for a uniform structure for panchayats at village and district levels and also a common pattern for nagarpalikas to ensure uniformity in the representation of weaker sections and women on these bodies. It was to be the responsibility of the Election Commission to conduct elections to these institutions through the state electoral officers.

The prime minister said that under the amendments, the panchayats and nagarpalikas were to be associated with planning at every level. The plans prepared by the local bodies were to be considered by committee elected by the members of zila parishads [district councils] and nagarpalikas with proportional representation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and 30 percent reservation for women. Mr Gandhi said the Constitution amendments entrusted the comptroller and auditor general the responsibility for auditing the accounts of the local bodies. The two amendment bills were aimed at creating lakhs of elected representatives at the local levels to deal with local problems. The prime minister said that the provisions under the bills were intended to fill the vacuum created by the absence of local level political authorities in the countries which had resulted in the growth of power brokers.

Participating in the resumed debate, the ruling party members congratulated the prime minister for bringing forward the bills, while opposition members expressed reservations over some of the clauses, stating that they violated the basic principles of the Constitution. A ruling party member said the bills would expand the horizons of democracy in the country with the devolution of power to the grass root level. There was a suggestion to refer the bills to a joint select committee.

The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr M.M. Jacob, reacting to the voting pattern said the government expected that at least some opposition parties would reconsider their stand as these bills were brought forward in the people's interest, as he put it. Mr Jacob alleged that the voting pattern has exposed the unholy alliance of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Left parties.

The Janata Dal leader and the leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mr M.S. Gurupadaswamy, claimed that the voting on the bills reflected the opposition unity against the moves to overcentralize power, as he put it.

Documents Produced on Assets of V.P. Singh's Son

BK1310162489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] The government today laid on the table of the Lok Sabha various documents and statements indicating the genuineness of the alleged foreign accounts in the name of Mr Ajay Singh in Saint Kitts. The minister of state for finance, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, laid the agreement forms signed by Mr Ajay Singh and Mr V.P. Singh [Janata Dal leader] along with several deposit forms, following demand by members during a special discussion on the matter. Statements by two officials of the First Trust Corporation of Saint Kitts contradicting some Indian press reports about the amount were also laid. The press reports had earlier said the two officials denied the existence of the alleged account.

Replying to the discussion, Mr Faleiro said that available evidence leave no doubts about the genuineness of the account. The minister, however, said that further confirmations are to be made before initiating action against Mr Ajay Singh or Mr V.P. Singh for any offense. He said this is particularly necessary because of certain protections enjoyed by Mr Ajay Singh as a nonresident Indian.

Refuting an opposition member's allegation, Mr Faleiro said no discrimination has been made against Mr Ajay Singh and due procedures of law have been adopted in the following case. He said at this stage the definite conclusion is that the assets disclosed by Mr Ajay Singh are disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Earlier, initiating the debate, Mr T. Basheer, Congress-I, demanded thorough investigations into the case and strict action to be taken for any violation of law.

Seeking clarification, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr K.K. Tiwari, accused Mr V.P. Singh of misusing his position while he was finance minister. He said Mr Singh and his son have collaborated with outside forces, which demands strict action.

Minister Says Fiji Constitution 'Discriminatory'

BK1510041689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has apprised Australia and New Zealand of India's stand on Fiji's new discriminatory and racial constitution, which does not take into account the rights of the majority ethnic Indians.

Mr Natwar Singh, who returned to Singapore yesterday after a 3-day visit to the two countries, is leaving for Kuala Lumpur today for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting beginning on Wednesday [18 October]. Queen Elizabeth of Britain has already arrived in the Malaysian capital to open the Commonwealth summit.

Gandhi Opens Nuclear Plant in Uttar Pradesh

BK1510155989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today dedicated to the nation the Narora atomic power station. Situated in the Bulandshahr District of Uttar Pradesh, the plant will generate and supply electricity to the grid. It has two units with a capacity of 235 mw each.

Mr Gandhi also laid the foundation of the 1,340 crore rupee petrochemical project at Salimpur in Aligarh District. The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, was present on the occasion.

In the morning, Mr Gandhi laid the foundation stone of the 2,400 crore rupee Haldia petrochemical complex in West Bengal. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Notes 'Terrorist' Activities in Punjab

BK1610031289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] In Punjab, six persons, including a constable, have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activities since last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists shot dead one constable and two shopkeepers at Tarn Taran in Amritsar District. In another incident in the same district, terrorists entered into a farmer's house and shot him, his wife, and relatives in Devidaspura. In Gurdaspur District, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police near village Sakowali in Batala. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Police Kill 2 'Underground Extremists' in Manipur

BK1710090689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] In Manipur, two underground extremists were shot dead in an encounter with the police in a crowded market at Imphal this morning. According to police, four extremists belonging to the People's Liberation Army came to a shoe store and tried to extort money from the owner. They opened fire on a police party which reached there on a tip-off. Two extremists were killed when the police returned the fire. One revolver and six rounds of ammunition were recovered from the spot. The entire area has been cordoned off and efforts are on to track down the two extremists who fled.

Iran

Khamene'i Approves Yazdi's Amnesty Request

LD1710142689 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today approved of a request by Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi to pardon or commute the prison terms of deserving inmates.

Inmates already serving prison sentences and those convicted by court martial, courthouses and the Islamic revolution courts before 18 october will benefit from the decree.

The decree however excludes those convicted of capital crimes such as hoarding, embezzlement of over rials 500,000 (dlrs 7,000), taking bribes worth rials 50,000 and more, usurping or looting state-owned properties, drug-trafficking and holding membership in outlaw groups.

The approval came on the eve of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) and Imam Ja'far Sadeq (A.S.) [God's peace be upon him], the 6th imam of the prophet's infallible household, which this year falls on 18 October.

The leader of the Islamic revolution also agreed to a proposal by the Judiciary head to pardon or commute the prison terms of another 48 deserving inmates sentenced by the Islamic revolution courts in different cities.

Details of Amnesty Decree

LD1710152389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] On the eve of the blessed anniversary of the birth of the holy prophet—may God's peace and benedictions be upon him and his scion—and of the holy imam, Ja'far Sadeq—God's peace be upon him—His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, has approved the request of Ayatollah Yazdi, chief of the Judiciary, concerning amnesty and a reduction in the sentences of those who have been sentenced by public, military, and Islamic revolution courts, whose sentence would be finalized by 18 October 1989. The text of the letter of the chief of the Judiciary and the reply of the eminent leader are as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To his gracious, eminent presence, the leader Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. May God maintain your shadow over the heads of Muslims. Offering my congratulations on the eve of the anniversary of the blessed birth of the holy prophet—may God's peace and benedictions be upon him and his scion—the amnesty and a reduction in the sentences of those sentenced by public, military, and Islamic Revolution courts, whose sentences have been finalized by 18 October 1989 is proposed herein, with the following details of instances covered:

Part I:
1. Those sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment will be fully pardoned.
2. Two-thirds of the sentences of those sentenced to up to 5 years' imprisonment will be pardoned.
3. Three-fourths of the sentences of those sentenced to 7 and up to 10 years' imprisonment will be pardoned.
4. Fourth-fifths of the sentences of those sentenced to up to 15 years' imprisonment will be pardoned.
5. Ten years will be removed from the sentences of those sentenced to over 15 years' imprisonment.
6. Those sentenced to life imprisonment will have their sentences reduced to 15 years.
7. The sentences of those sentenced to receive lashes as punishment will be pardoned.
8. Two-thirds of the sentences of those sentenced to compulsory residence at a location, or forbidden to reside at a certain location, will be pardoned.
9. Two-thirds of the sentences of those sentenced to pay fines, who have been imprisoned due to their inability to pay these fines, will be pardoned.

Part II: The following are not covered by this decree:
1. Hoarding.
2. Embezzlement of more than 500,000 rials and receiving of bribes of more than 50,000 rials; illegal usurpation of public properties and plundering public funds.
3. Armed robberies and highway robberies.
4. Importers, manufacturers, and distributors of narcotics, up to five grams, and opiates up to 50 gram.
5. Perpetrators of indecent acts.
6. Counterrevolutionary minigroups' sentences, except those who have repented and their repentance has been approved by the prosecutor, the religious judge, and the Intelligence Department; and spies.
7. Those convicted of charges relating to narcotics and opiates whose sentences were issued after 21 January 1989.
[Signed] Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary
[Dated] 14 October 1989

The text of the reply of his gracious leader to the request of the head of the Judiciary, is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Ayatollah Yazdi, respected head of the Judiciary, may your blessings continue. I give my consent to Your Excellency's proposal concerning granting amnesty to the aforementioned offenders, and bearing in mind the emphasis placed on the exemptions mentioned in Part II.
[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 16 October 1989

According to the same report, Mr Yazdi, head of the Judiciary, in another letter to his eminence the leader requested that the sentences of 48 offenders who have been sentenced by the Islamic revolution courts in seven cities, be reduced. This request was approved by his eminence. The text of the letter of the head of the Judiciary and the reply of his eminence, the leader, are as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the gracious presence of the leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God maintain your shadow over the heads of Muslims. With bows and respects, in implementing Clause 11, Principle 110 of the Constitution, enclosed are the names and details of those sentenced by the Islamic revolution courts of seven cities, whose sentences have passed through the legal procedures and who are eligible for reductions in their sentences.
[Signed] Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary

The figures concerning 48 persons sentenced by the Islamic revolution courts who are eligible for amnesty and reduction in their sentences, are as follows:
Eslamabad-e Gharb: 11 persons amnestied.
Bakhtaran: 1 person amnestied.
Rafsanjan: 1 person amnestied.
Fasa: 8 persons amnestied and 3 sentences reduced.
Kashmar: 5 persons amnestied.
Gorgan: 2 persons amnestied.
Gonbad: 15 persons amnestied and 2 persons in the category of minigroup sentences, pardoned.

So, in total, in the section of public sentences, 43 persons were given amnesty and 3 persons received reductions; and 2 persons were pardoned in the category of minigroup sentences.

The text of the reply of his eminence, the leader of the Islamic revolution, is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I consent to the proposals of Your Excellency concerning granting amnesty or reducing the sentences of the persons mentioned.
[Signed] Seyyed Ale' Khamne'i
[Dated] 16 October 1989

It should be recalled that the details of these sentences will be issued by the Judiciary to the judicial courts of the country.

Conference Marking Unity Week Continues

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Speech

LD1610150489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0934 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Islamic Unity conference held at Tehran University; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I am taking this occasion marking the birthdays of his holiness the great prophet and his honorable offspring, Imam Sadiq, to discuss the problem of the lack of Islamic unity and ways of resolving it. Naturally, it is necessary to have speeches, ceremonies and the like, and issues are certainly discussed in the course of speeches. To find the way, however, one needs to take action. Executive plans should be drawn up in which we should focus on ways of resolving the problem. I have devoted much thought to this. I thought of discovering how to remove this great pain. There are about 1 billion Muslims in about 50 countries, as well as a wide presence practically all over the world in one way or another. We have great capabilities. However, no effective initiative is carried out in the world in the name of Islam, especialy pure and true Islam. We are not making correct use of this divine and great blessing, or perhaps we are even experiencing losses rather than gains.

At present, many differences exist in our society which have evolved in the name of Islam. Perhaps some of those differences would not exist if the name of Islam were not used, because every trend, every creed, and every faction wants to be Muslim and has its own interpretation of Islam. Consequently, it attracts its own following from which a chain of differences emanate. Natural differences do exist among people and societies, but we have an extra difference among us which is in the name of Islam. A brief glance at Koranic verses shows us a way. I acknowledge the difficulties on this path. In other words, the pursuit of unanimity in word involves first the difficulty of taking the initial few steps, after which there is the difficulty of maintaining it. This is a fact of life on which one should somehow invest [as heard], both toward its inception and its pursuit. We should acknowledge the difficulty of these tasks. It requires much dedication and time, and there should be invididuals who prepare and devote themselves to this task to enable us to attain results. It is evident both from a historical viewpoint and an analytical one. [passage omitted] Disagreement is a natural phenomenon. It is impossible to say that human beings can live together sharing unanimous views in all fields. God has not created man in that way. Human beings hold different views. [passage omitted]

The prophets were sent, then the book [Koran] arrived, and criteria were set, on the basis of which judgments were to be made in the course of history. Those who wished to understand the book and act on it entered into differences. This is where our problems emanate from. This is the issue I would like to discuss with you 'ulema, that of our problem and that of the Islamic world. Those who do not follow a religion have also opted for this path; that is, the path which the Koran has promulgated, the path which the prophets have chosen. You have witnessed how those countries which totally reject spiritualism in our sense of the word and think in material terms only also resolve their problems through the law. They have legislation, and those laws are the judges. They have even made some international laws. They have laws in their own countries, and laws where two countries are involved. The Marxists have international laws, and the same applies to their opposite pole which are the capitalists. The regional powers also have international regulations, which are all based on laws. They have all set regulations to which they adhere in times of discord. This is the same path which the Koran has promulgated in the name of shari'ah in a divine book. The world has reached the same conclusion through its own experiences and thoughts.

What is the stumbling block in the way of our Islamic unity? [passage omitted] We should unfold this issue to see which factors now constitute the basis of unity, and which factors create stumbling blocks preventing the making of an effective basis of unity. If we seek true unity, that is to achieve the kind of unity by which the Islamic ummah unites as an integral party in which 1 billion Muslims cooperate with each other, this calls for a certain task, and whether that is possible at the moment or not.... I cannot see its achievement in the short-run, but it is ultimately possible. Or if it is not possible to achieve unity in the full sense of being one party—which in our case is the Party of God [Hezbollah], and according to the Koran, all Muslims belong to the Party of God, a single ummah—then it is possible to cooperate. If cooperation is not possible in all issues, at least, refraining from quarrelling and adopting mutual restraint is more possible. That would be possible, if today there was a correct global policy in the Islamic world. This should, as a rule, be initiated by the Islamic 'ulema, before it reaches the Islamic governments.

Full and total cooperation comes about when these things exist: a single worldview; a single goal in the movement; a single ideology; the principle governing the social movement—a principle that guides humankind; a single policy, a general single policy, which they call strategy, and in the practical and executive cases, we

should be able to choose single methods, so that, if such a situation does exist, then it can move as a single, uniform movement. [sentence as heard] Now, to what extent this is possible at present—if we are not idealists then, we should say that at present—it is very difficult, very difficult. We also see that within a country, within a religion, and even within our own revolution, there are differences in the policies adopted, because after all, these people do not have different world views, nor do they have differences in terms of ideology.

The Shiite school of thought is our ideology present in our revolution; this is how we think about it. Perhaps we have some differences in terms of strategy, in our movement, and more so in our tactics, but our goals are the same; and while we see there are differences, these do not prevent us from cooperating when it comes to important issues. When the fundamental basis of the revolution may be in danger, in peace, in war, in important problems, then we see that we are all united. Some minor problems may arise, however, and then again we find that we have differences. Well, if we were to carry this over and beyond the question of creed, if we apply it to different kinds of creeds, this becomes a bit more difficult, because here different types of ideologies are involved.

From a single perspective, the world view in the world of Islam is almost the same; we Muslims have a single world view. There are differences in viewpoints on the question of the imamate and leadership—and well, viewpoints over the imamate and leadership are naturally very important and create problems. We have to be in control of these problems, however, and overcome them so that they cannot prevent us from fundamental cooperation among ourselves.

The world, the satans of the world create discord among us to make us go for each other's throats constantly, with the result that we go on about the negative things that are said about us by others from our own viewpoints, instead of talking about our positive qualities. This brings nothing but a lot of problems along the way. They do not want us to unite; they know that this unity involves some difficulties.

So, at present, we have the germs giving rise to differences externally and internally too. The front of blasphemy is working to provoke us constantly and prevent us from cooperating. Should we surrender to this reality? These are the obstacles. We should do something about them. The same path that the Koran has set before us which concerns the principle of natural differences: We should follow this path; we should move along this path. The 'ulema of Islam should be the vanguard and we should really adopt a practical approach—we should benefit from Unity Week. We should take the opportunity to benefit from this approach and choose a practical solution worthy of execution and acceptable to others, and then move, step by step, along the path of the movement of Islamic society toward a single direction.

As I have said, absolute unity is rather difficult to achieve, but cooperation is possible. Even if one says that cooperation in all fields is not possible, we could find common denominators when dealing with important, fundamental issues which threaten the basis of Islam, within the scope of which we could cooperate with each other. Islamic nations would thus enjoy the benefits of cooperation and be encouraged to further cooperate.

If a group is formed, comprising well-known, acceptable, and uncompromising figures who are not easily frightened and who are prepared to make sacrifices along the way, it could start as a small entity and gradually grow. Creditable figures from various Islamic sects could gather and work together on a healthy basis, free from personal desires and whims. [passage omitted]

There are certain important political-economic issues for Islamic societies about which we could take a common stand; for example, the issue of Palestine. Of course, that is beyond the scope of the Islamic 'ulema; it is within the scope of politicians and rulers. It is rather complicated. However, for a start, one could say that if we had such a base, it could bring this issue within the scope of the system. The greatest power in the world of Islam at the moment is without doubt the religious spirit of the people, both among the Sunnis and the Shiites, each in accordance with their sect. If we had a religious base in the world it could mobilize Islamic nations in particular issues, such as Palestine, or oil, or foreign domination in general.

At the moment, that is difficult. Certain countries are ruled by the United States; some are nonaligned, some are pro-Britain. In some countries the 'ulema have certain limitations and particular problems. If we look at the realities, we see that this task would be difficult. If we could set up a truly independent center, comprising sincere Islamic 'ulema, outside the issues and realities prevalent in the world so that they could tell the Islamic world what is in its interests, they would regard the liberation of Palestine as one of the most important issues for cooperation in the world of Islam.

They would be backed by hundreds of millions Muslims, and if they determined and declared on what issues Muslims should cooperate, I believe that governments in Islamic countries would do a great deal in that respect. Those who stray, however, would be defeated from within their own countries. If such a situation is created and a large number of Islamic countries collaborate and utilize Islamic resources, those who stray would be disgraced. The great Islamic movement would begin the liberation of Palestine, its backers would step forward, and everything would be fine. [passage omitted]

If we had a judicial assembly comprising creditable figures from the Islamic world they could pass judgment if any differences of opinion occurred in the Muslim world and their judgment would be extremely effective; for example, concerning the difference among Palestinians, and so forth. [passage omitted]

At present, as you can see, your enemies, infidels such as Western countries, are all involved with their own materialistic world. They have gathered, created a common market, a common parliament. They sit together and constantly collude and cheat us, because they have seen that there is a new spark in the Muslim world. The Islamic world has become a threat to the interests of arrogance. Iran has opened our eyes to the danger. Therefore, the West is colluding against the Muslims.

We could have achieved a great deal in the Islamic world. We are very powerful. The Islamic world has been encumbered with these meaningless differences among the Muslims. If one were not afraid of the spread of harmful issues, one would recount examples of these differences. It is disgusting to wise people. There are certain differences in our ideologies which need not be revived.

In any case, we thank all who are concerned with the need for unity in the world of Islam and have taken part in Unity Week ceremonies. We expect a movement to start, a practical step to be taken. I know that it is an extremely difficult task, but not an impossible one. [passage omitted]

You can stand up to arrogance, thanks to the existing conditions. Fortunately, there is a base in Iran which proclaims Islam, has risen in the name of Islam. We did not possess it in the past, but now we do. There are platforms, radio, newspapers, which did not exist 10 years ago. We can spend money for this cause and use our credit to invest in it. You should find some honest people. Start with a few, and God will guide us. If we wish to follow this great path, God's blessings could be very constructive for us. Perhaps we will be able to solve this fundamental problem of the world of Islam. Others will come after us and complete the talks, God willing. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Khamene'i on Need for Unity

LD1610132889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Five hundred Iranian and foreign guests participating in the Islamic Unity Conference, accompanied by clergymen and officials, Friday imams and Sunni and Shiite brothers from the provinces of Kordestan and Bakhtaran, educators, and a group of people from Qazvin, clergymen, officials and various strata of the people from the towns of (Lengan), Mobarakeh, and Sorkheh, and members of the rural Islamic Councils of (Fars) were received this morning by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic revolution greeted them on the occasion of the blessed birth of his holiness the prophet, the great messenger, Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah, may God's peace and blessings be upon him and his scion, and the birth of the promulgator and missionary of the school of Islam, Imam Ja'far Sadiq, may God's peace be upon him. He stated that the blessed existence of his holiness the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him and his scion, has been a source of unity in all the Islamic periods and will continue to be so, saying: Our recommendation to all Muslims is that they should strive to understand and present all the dimensions of the personality, life, tradition, ethics, teachings, manner of government and rule, politics, worship and jihad of his holiness the prophet. Today, the greatest propaganda work for Islam is to clarify the image of the prophet of Islam before the enemy can distort it in the unsuspecting minds of the world. This is a necessary task, and those Muslims who are talented, knowledgeable, and informed about propaganda and words must carry out scientific, cultural, artistic and propaganda work.

The guardian of the cause [vali-ye amr] of Muslims referred to the unsuccessful efforts of global arrogance to crush the Islamic revolution as the manifestation of Islam in practice and said: When the enemies of Islam were confronted, through the blessings of the Islamic revolution, with the spiritual growth of the world's Muslims, they tried to crush the revolution and Islamic Iran both militarily and economically. Because they did not achieve their aims, however, the Satans embarked on a cultural attack and made their satanic mercenary [Salman Rushdie] insult the prophet of God, may God's peace and blessings be upon him and his scion. Moreover, he wrote that satanic book, an action which met with a decisive response from the world's Muslims and, at the head of them, our late honorable imam, who issued the sentence for his death.

Elsewhere in his speech, the leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the importance of unity in the world of Islam and said: If it is a goal that the unity and closeness of Islamic sects servesIslam to the benefit of Muslims and for the greatness of Islam, we must be certain that the enemies of Islam are expending the greatest effort and carrying out the most twisted conspiracies against that unity. Today, whatever is most beneficial for Muslims is the most negative from the point of view of the enemies of Islam and the more it will come under attack; that is a definite equation.

The leader of the world's Muslims referred to the friendship and fondness existing between global arrogance and some of the leaders ruling Muslim countries and said: The same enemies which have defended those leaders with all their might and have placed money, propaganda, and weapons at their disposal, are opposing with all their might the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, because they have discovered that the greatness of Islam will be pursued in Islamic Iran.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the conspiracies of Islam's enemies to disturb Muslim unity are greater today than ever before and, referring to global arrogance's propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: All the propaganda organizations of arrogance, headed by the United States, have been mobilized to present Islamic Iran and the Muslim nation of Iran to

the world as something other than it is. The money of arrogance's machinery and its lackeys are spent in the world and, more than anywhere else, in the world of Islam, to create divisions among Muslims and to bring about disagreements and estrangements between Islamic Iran and the Muslims of the world.

The guardian of the cause of Muslims and the hope of the world's oppressed referred to the efforts of global propaganda to inflame the differences between Shiite and Sunni and said: Today, Islamic unity is centered on the axis of Islamic Iran and the hearts of Muslims are turned toward Islam's mother of villages, that is, Iran, because today in the world of Islam, the place in which the Koran rules officially and in practice is Islamic Iran. Here, the precondition for the acceptance of responsibility by the people in charge is faith and piety, and that is the reverse of some Muslim countries where the actions of their leaders are foreign to, and distant from, Islam.

The leader of Islamic Iran added: In Iran it is not the case, as in some Islamic countries, that its officials commit what is religiously forbidden, and violate and transgress divine limitations, or are the enemies of God and his faithful servants, or put pressure on believers and the faithful. Iran is the only point in the world of Islam in which the country's officials and managers must be known by the people for their faith, piety, and belief.

The leader of the world's Muslims scolded and reprimanded those claimants who, while engaging in corruption, deviation, and major sins, present themselves as promoters, promulgators, and protectors of Islam. He called on Muslim 'ulema to be vigilant in the face of the propaganda machinery affiliated to colonialism and arrogance for the destruction of Islamic unity and added: Islam's 'ulema must be wary of false religions and oil dollars which are used to create divisions, and they must identify and confront the evil mercenary hands which strive to break apart and tear the firm link [Arabic expression from the Koran] between Muslims, because that confrontation is a requirement of attachment to Islamic unity.

In conclusion, the supreme religious jurisconsult [vali-ye faqih], His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, described unity between various Islamic sects as cooperation, like-mindedness, and understanding among Muslims to confront enemies and said: Many of the edicts of the 'ulema and jurisconsults of Islams may be brought close to one another if subjected to wide theological discussion. We intend to establish an interreligious conference, and to be the hosts to world personalities from the entire world of Islam so that we can, through the efforts of jurisconsults, speakers, philosophers, and the 'ulema of Islam, put the views of Islamic sects in a single collection at the disposal of all Muslims. [passage omitted]

Meeting Ends; Resolution Issued

LD1610175789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The third Islamic Unity Conference [IUC], named Imam Khomeyni and Islamic Unity, ended this evening by issuing a resolution. During today's conference session various people spoke, including Mr Sijani from Tunisia; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Amini, a lecturer from Qom seminary; Sirat Taleqani from Afghanistan; Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the president's political adviser; Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban; Al-'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, from the Lebanese 'ulema; and Mohammad Yazdi, the head of judicial power.

During last night's session of the conference Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq, a spokesman for the eight-party alliance of the Afghan mujahidin; Dr Ja'far Shahidi, a history professor from Tehran University; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], gave speeches on the need for unity among Muslims. Mr Yazdi the head of judicial power, in his speech to the conference, commented on Islamic unity and the role played by Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, in the Muslims' unity. He asked for the ever-increasing unity of world Muslims.

President Congratulates Mobilization Personnel

LD1610125189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpts] On the occasion of 16 October, the anniversary of the saga of the Khorramshahr resistance, self-sacrificing Mobilization Corps personnel from ministries and government departments assembled at the Shahid Shirudi stadium. Commanders and officials responsible for the I Sarallah Corps and some undersecretaries also attended.

According to a Central News Unit report, at the assembly, which was also attended by thousands of Mobilization Corps personnel, the president' message was read by the commander of the I Sarallah Corps. Praising the Mobilization personnel for their bravery and courage during 8 years of holy defense, the message reads:

You Mobilization personnel from the government departments are in fact allies of the Koran, soldiers of the Prophet Muhammad, and the strong arms of his eminence the imam. During that period you defended and guarded the sanctity of Muhammadan Islam in the best possible manner. [passage omitted]

Stressing the importance of alertness and preparedness by the Mobilization Forces to combat conspiracies and ploys of foreigners and enemies, addressing mobilization personnel from government departments, the message points out: We expect you brave men of the front of monotheism to remain at the trenches of the various

offices and institutes and help Islam and the revolution and be the strong arms of the Custodian of the Order of the Muslims, so that the malevolent enemies would not dare infiltrate your solid ranks, and so that your cohesion will neutralize their evil and malignant ploys. [passage omitted]

Narcotics Official Comments on War Against Drugs

NC1510143089 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1800 GMT 14 Oct 89

[From the "Mirror of Admonition" series presented by unidentified announcer with recorded passages by unnamed official]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] With your telephone calls to our phone number 290001, you encourage us in our work. Of course, we will try to improve this program as much as we can and of course, this will depend directly on your support.

This week we want to discuss the main element in drug addiction: smuggling and smugglers—smugglers whose sham happiness and welfare come from destroying the happiness of others, and smugglers who spend each moment of their lives stifling the happiness of fathers, mothers, and youth. [passage omitted]

The telephone numbers 128 and 273030 [numbers has heard] are the only phone numbers that can bring the drug smugglers closer to the gallows. [passage omitted]

[Begin official's recording] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. After the decision by the Expediency Discernment Council and the Islamic system on punishing drug smugglers, the session chaired by His Excellency Mir Hoseyn Musavi met. Before the implementation of this law, an explanatory seminar was held in order to inform all exeuctive, judicial, and propaganda officials about the implementation of this law and to outline methods for operation. This took place and, thank God, the outcome was extremely good.

After this seminar, a deadline was set for law's implementation. The deadline came, and the execution of smugglers started, primarily those smugglers with a long record of distributing large quantitites of drugs. They received the punishment they deserved.

Along with the smugglers' execution, security and executive activities were expanded, and an area in the east of the country from where drugs arrived was declared a banned area. Many of the sensitive passes in the eastern part of the country which were used by convoys to import drugs were closed by the Islamic Revolution Committee. Meanwhile, many operations took place, and many convoys were routed. As was also reported in the press, at least 60 convoys have been routed.

Along with executive and judicial activites, propaganda activities were carried out. All these activities led to a marked decrease in the quantity of drugs in our country. Many efforts were also carried out to form work camps. Some of the addicts were rounded up after the deadline set by the law and were handed over to the Prisons' Organization which would send them to work camps. This made some of the addicts overcome their addiction before being sent to work camps. So far, the figures submitted by the Islamic Revolution Committee show that about 6,000 people overcame their addictions without being arrested and sent to work camps. This is a considerable number.

We think that the implementation of this law in this very short time has produced extremely positive results. Of course, activities are not limited to only the few things I pointed out. Many other steps were taken and will be discussed at the proper time. Research and economic activities have taken place, and there are programs which are being implemented. All these stem from the creation of the Drug Enforcement Headquarters.

Some people feel we are at a stage when we do not need the fight against drugs and it may be better for us to not make this program a priority any longer. My personal feeling is that we are at the beginning of this struggle. We have only taken the first step and should continue this struggle more forcefully in the future. God forbid, if we do not continue along this path and the smugglers feel they will not be confronted, then they will once again resume their former activities. It is possible that this time they will bring larger quantities of drugs into the country. It is necessary, therefore, to continue executing the smugglers, even though executing them will not solve our problem. Along with executing smugglers, we should also carry out economic and cultural activities. God willing, the Drug Enforcement Headquarters which was assigned this duty will be able to accomplish it in the best way possible. [passage omitted] [end recording]

At this point, I would like to inform our dear listeners of an extremely important issue: In Ordibehesht [month beginning 21 April 1990], an international conference will be held in Tehran in which more than 60 countries will participate to discuss the struggle against drugs and trafficking. Organizations, foundations, offices, and individuals who want to receive or provide information to, or to cooperate with this conference can contact the following address:

Tehran, Pasteur Street, Prime Ministry, the Drug Enforcement Headquarters Secretariat; or call 6162557-9, the international affairs branch of the Drug Enforcement Headquarters. [passage omitted]

[Begin official's recording] As far as the recent Vienna conference is concerned, as you know the fight against drugs is apparently being carried out currently in all countries, and all people want smugglers to be stopped. However, because of governments' dependence on Mafia elements, this is not done. As time progresses, we see the spread of more and more drugs in the world and more and more young people are becoming addicts.

When world arrogance saw that the Drug Enforcement Headquarters was set up in Iran and that a great struggle against traffickers started, it felt threatened for two reasons. First, Mafia elements were being massacred in Iran. All the smugglers who were bringing drugs by convoy into Iran and distributing them are, in some way or another, in contact with Mafia elements and are acting to benefit Mafia policies. Thus, the execution of these people was a heavy blow to world arrogance. Also, this struggle presented Iran as a forerunner in the fight against drugs. For this reason they started to create a certain type of atmosphere that they needed. They instigated a large number of anti-Iranian people in the world to start propaganda, demonstrations, and marches, and to announce that those who were being executed were not drug smugglers but opponents of the Islamic Republic. They also incited more people to send letters to our officials, asking that the smugglers not be executed. They took other steps too, and in short, they exerted pressure to stop the staff's activities. However, they saw that all these efforts did not yield any results and that the fight against smugglers continued forcefully and decisively.

Thus, they started the recent activity against Colombia by assassinating the Colombian justice minister, who was an active person, an outstanding and independent individual from among the Colombian leaders who had fought against a number of people who were affiliated with the Mafia. After this, the Colombian leadership—most of whom, in my opinion, are affiliated with the Mafia—declared a war against the smugglers. Actually, they had declared war against themselves because the Colombian leaders, not others, are involved in cocaine distribution in that country. Thus, they started this commotion in order to distract attention from Iran and turn it to Colombia so that the world would not notice that a war against smugglers is being carried out in Iran.

Of course, they did this on the eve of the Vienna conference. In Vienna too, most of the representatives of various governments who spoke declared that they supported the fight against smuggling in Colombia. Even though much struggle had been carried out in Iran with so many successes, and even though Iran should have been referred to in Vienna as a pivotal country, particularly as the fight against drugs in Iran is not only for our own benefit but for European countries, they did not support and thank Iran.

Unfortunately, because this was not in their interests, they also announced that those people who are being hanged in Iran are not smugglers but opponents of the system, while the names of all of them were listed in the Drug Enforcement Headquarters' statements and people were informed of these names by the press. If one of these persons were not a smuggler, then they were right. However, they had their own wretched objectives and were interested in creating an anti-Iranian atmosphere.

Therefore, they created this commotion in order to turn attention from Iran and to Colombia so that Iran would not be portrayed as a pivotal country in the fight against drugs. Unfortunately, probably many of us may not have realized this and thought that they were actually interested in the fight against drugs. However, in our opinion the U.S. and the Colombian leaders are all, in one way or another, the main elements of the Mafia that distributes drugs in the world. Therefore, because they themselves are drug smugglers, we should not expect them to fight against drugs in the world or to see a decrease in drugs in the future.

When you see in the press that suddenly 20 tonnes of cocaine are discovered in the United States, this cannot be without the knowledge of the U.S. leaders. They have extremely complicated and advanced methods by which they can control their borders. There is no reason why such a great quantity of drugs and cocaine could be stored in one place in the United States with their not being aware of it. They are involved in this, and the reason why such consignments are discovered is because of the rivalries between the Mafia and other international smugglers. At any rate, we believe that the Colombian issue reflected at our country and was a plot against our country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Paris AFP in English at 0832 GMT on 15 October carries a Tehran-datelined report on this Tehran television program in which it states: "An Iranian narcotics official has accused the United States of capturing the limelight with a recent major anti-drugs offensive in order to 'conceal the positive results' of Iran's own war on drug traffickers. Mokhtar Kalantari, one of the leaders of Iran's ambitious anti-drug campaign and deputy commander of the urban militia, was addresssing a late Saturday television programme on 'the ravages of drugs in Iran.'"]

Antinarcotics Unit Seizes Opium in Zahedan

LD1510131689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The guards of the antinarcotics unit of Sistan va-Baluchestan Province's Islamic Revolution Committee, while searching a residential building in the town of Zahedan, found and seized 95 kg of opium and one Kalashnikov. In the past few days, 18 kg of opium in the Mirjaveh region as well as 1.9 kg hashish and heroin in the Zahedan terminal were also found and seized. Eight drug-smugglers were arrested and turned over to judicial authorities.

'International' Drug Smuggling Ring Broken

LD1610185589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] An international network of narcotics smugglers which has managed to distribute over 1 tonne of various kinds of narcotics throughout the country has been broken, and 35 of the merchants of death have been arrested.

According to IRNA, almost 6 kilograms of heroin and 60 kilograms of opium were confiscated from the members of the network. Six vehicles and seven motorcycles were also confiscated.

Pakistan

Bhutto, Delegation Leave for Commonwealth Summit

BK1710063389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad for Kuala Lumpur to participate in the Commonwealth summit conference, which begins in the Malaysian capital tomorrow. A 25-member delegation, including federal ministers and parliament members, accompanied the prime minister.

Among those present at the airport to see the prime minister off were Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, Punjab Governor Retired General Tikka Khan, Sind Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah, federal ministers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Admiral Sirohey, and the chiefs of the three armed forces.

Minister Speaks to Newsmen on Journalism Issues

BK1510035489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Ahmad Saeed Awan, the minister of state for information, has reiterated that the government does not intend to change its policy on journalistic freedom. Talking to newsmen in Karachi yesterday, he said the national press will remain free as long as it continues to march forward on the path of truth with a sense of responsibility and accountability. He urged the national press to desist from speculative reporting, discourage ethnic prejudices, and cooperate in promoting a spirit of unity, integrity, and patriotism. Ahmad Saeed Awan said the reputation of the electronic media will not only be maintained, but also strengthened.

About the National Press Trust, Saeed Awan said that after reviewing the legal aspects of the issue, it is felt that the trust can be neither dismantled nor abolished. The government is, however, trying to dissociate itself from the trust in order to privatize move the National Press Trust publications.

Answering another question, Saeed Awan said the government is not in favor of the contract system and the problem will be solved for good in the fifth wage board for journalists.

About the opposition parties' alleged disinformation cell and the adverse propaganda in certain foreign newspapers, the minister of state for information and broadcasting said that the government does not care about the malicious propaganda campaign being waged by the opposition. The government is capable of facing every challenge, he asserted.

Energy Chief on 'Peaceful' Use of Atomic Energy

BK1610113789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Pakistan is fully committed to the promotion of peaceful uses of atomic energy and wants to bring its benefits to the people in the production of electricity and application in agriculture, industry, and medicine. This was stated by the chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, while inaugurating a 12-day regional training course on radio therapy for medical physicists in Lahore today. He said Pakistan has placed special emphasis on applying nuclear radiation in health sector and is among the leading countries in the Third World in using radio isotopes and radiation in this sphere.

Sri Lanka

Wijetunge Leaves To Attend Commonwealth Summit

BK1610132589 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge left Sri Lanka this morning to attend Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Kuala Lumpur which begins on the 18th. The prime minister will represent the president at the Commonwealth summit. [passage omitted]

Editorial Welcomes U.S. Ambassador's Remarks

BK1510135989 Colombo SUN in English 6 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Lanka-U.S. Ties"]

[Text] Ambassador-designate to Sri Lanka Marion V. Creekmore appearing before the Foreign Relations Committee reportedly made some pertinent remarks about the future political and economic prospects as well as predicaments that Sri Lanka faces.

The U.S. like most concerned nations is keeping a close tab on the developments in this country.

In fact the recent tragic occurrences have been the focus attention in the global media while political leaders elsewhere continue to monitor these evidently with a sense of altruistic anxiety and sometimes with apparent trepidation.

Mr Creekmore understandably underlined cautionary words of advice when he said that "Sri Lanka is a country of great potential... but it risks losing all of this if it cannot come to grips with a solution to the ethnic tensions." He was more specific about the unprecedented challenges as Lanka stands torn by two simultaneous insurgencies.

The U.S. has openly supported the Indo-Lankan agreements. It made no visible objections when India agreed to play the role of peacekeeper despite the fact that India's main concern in Sri Lanka appears to have been prompted by geopolitical considerations though the ethnic conflagrations here provided the ideal conveniences.

Convincing theories have been sounded in the recent past that India had some xenophobia about possible US influences in Sri Lanka that provoked it to involve itself in the ethnic insurgency in north and east Lanka.

When Sri Lanka cried out for help to quell the Tamil insurgency in those areas enjoying direct patronage and help of the Indians from across the waters, not even the U.S. was able to comprehend the crisis.

The end result was a fiasco and an intervention by "invitation."

If the U.S. could confirm the absence of a foreign hand in Lanka's southern militancy now, was it not aware of a foreign link to the ethnic insurgency?

Six months ago the TIME magazine quoting US South Asian security expert Ashley Trellis provided an answer when he affirmed that India showed it was willing to use force even when there was no clear-cut security threat in Lanka.

Washington had always strived for good relations with India just as much as it does with Sri Lanka, and the latest pronouncement by Creekmore that the US takes heart and hope in the fact that Sri Lankans and Indians worked out a framework agreement sounds decidedly reassuring.

Sri Lanka has always had an ideal relationship with the USA which is its largest trading partner. The democratic traditions of that country—especially that of the free press—are appreciated by the mass of people here, while the government seeks US-style market related economic growth.

Mr Creekmore's assurance that his country will support actions that will strengthen Sri Lanka's democracy, economy stability and constitutional liberties is most laudable.

Secret Unit To Probe Hit Squads; 24 Dead 15 Oct

BK1510095389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 15 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Sunday set up a secret unit to investigate paramilitary vigilante hit squads as continuing political violence left 24 more people dead, officials said. A government statement said the independent investigation unit will comprise "senior police and civilian officials, whose names will not be divulged for valid reasons." The unit has powers to recommend government action to disband any illegal paramilitary group and assess acts committed by them in any part of the country.

The government move came ahead of a visit by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and after hundreds of killings, including 40 near here over the weekend blamed on vigilante groups opposed to anti-government rebels.

The government's decision was taken following a consensus at an all-party peace conference to identify and disband all illegal paramilitary forces which the government said were allegedly operating in different parts of the country. "All persons who have any information regarding the operations or the identity of any illegal paramilitary organisation, vehicles used by them or their places of meeting are requested to convey such information to the independent investigation unit," the statement said, giving a Colombo post office box number.

A four-member delegation from the Geneva-based ICRC is due to arrive here Monday following an invitation by President Ranasinghe Premadasa to extend its humanitarian work in the strife-torn island republic.

Thousands of people have died in Sri Lanka in violence related to the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) and hit squads opposed to the group in the past two years. [passage omitted]